

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

13 OCT 14 P5:13

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 292

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE GLOBAL GOAL OF ELIMINATING THE USE OF LEAD PAINT IN THE COUNTRY, AND TO URGE THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK OF ACTION

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 13 provides: "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being";

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 likewise provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, lead, a cumulative toxin classified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as one of the "Ten Chemicals of Major Public Health Concern" and by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as one of the country's "Priority Chemicals," continues to threaten children's health with adverse effects described by WHO as "irreversible and untreatable by modern medicine;"

WHEREAS, a study by medical experts at the New York University School of Medicine published by the Environmental Health Perspectives and cited by the EcoWaste Coalition in an article published in the Philippine Star said that childhood lead exposure is costing low and middle income countries \$977 billion and the Philippines \$15 billion per year due to lost lifetime economic productivity from lead-attributable IQ loss;

WHEREAS, reducing lead exposure among children and other vulnerable groups is a key public health objective with interventions focusing on eradicating the preventable sources of exposure such as lead paint and dust deemed as most effective in stopping childhood lead poisoning;

WHEREAS, the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, a joint undertaking of the United Nations Environment Programme and the WHO, is organizing the first ever International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action on 20-26 October 2013 that will focus on the theme "Eliminating Lead in Paints";

WHEREAS, the Week of Action provides an excellent platform to raise public awareness about children's exposure to lead in paint and other sources and strengthen initiatives to prevent childhood lead poisoning, particularly the ongoing action by the government, industry and the civil society to eliminate lead in architectural, decorative or household paints;

WHEREAS, the participation of all stakeholders in the Week of Action, including national government agencies, local government units, clinical and public health professionals, paint companies, civil society organizations, schools, faith groups and the general public, is regarded as crucial to advance the goal of preventing children's and workers' exposures to lead paint;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Philippine Senate to express the sense of the Senate that it supports the global goal of eliminating lead paint as it calls upon the government, particularly the Departments of Education, Environment and Natural Resources, Health, Interior and Local Government and Trade and Industry, to initiate activities within their respective mandates in support of this lofty goal during the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action and beyond;

WHEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Philippines declares itself as a "lead-safe zone" disallowing the use of lead paint in any painting job within its premises and ensuring safe work practices therein to minimize occupational exposures to lead.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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