

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 417

RECEIVED BY: *ju*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED CANCEROUS BABY FEEDING BOTTLES AND SIPPY CUPS CONTAINING BISPHENOL A

WHEREAS, the Constitution Article 11, Section 14 of the Constitution provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 11 further provides: "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost";

WHEREAS, in a press release last 12 January 2014, the EcoWaste Coalition said that the Department of Health--Food and Drug Administration (DOH-FDA) should fast track the approval of an Administrative Order pending since May 2013 that will prohibit the production and sale of feeding bottles and drinking cups containing Bisphenol A (BPA), based on a study in the United States of America published in the medical journal "Endocrinology";

WHEREAS, BPA is a compound used in the production of polycarbonate plastics and epoxy resins that can reportedly interfere with natural hormones and damage human health, especially infants who are mainly sensitive to the effects of BPA, the group said.

WHEREAS, the US study showed that exposure to low levels of BPA during development may make men more susceptible to the growth of cancerous cells in prostate tissue later in life;

WHEREAS, it was reported that the following countries have imposed restrictions on BPA, specifically by banning it in baby bottles: Canada (in 2008), France (2010), the 27 member states of European Union (2011), China (2011), Malaysia (2012), South Africa (2012), and the USA (2012);

WHEREAS, it is said that Belgium in 2013 started enforcing a ban on BPA in the packaging of food products for children less than three years of age and also in plastic articles like spoons and plates for the same age group, while Sweden has banned BPA in varnishes and coatings used in the packaging of food to children less than three years old.;

WHEREAS, the EcoWaste Coalition said that the government should immediately consider a broader ban on BPA, citing the move taken by France to prohibit the manufacture, import, export and commercialization of all forms of food packaging containing BPA by 2015;

WHEREAS, to avoid BPA being replaced by equally harmful substances, the EcoWaste Coalition further urged the DOH-FDA to incorporate into the Administrative Order the following text as proposed by this author in Senate Bill No. 3121, "An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Baby Food Products with BPA and Providing for Its Replacement with the Least Toxic Alternative" filed in the present Congress;

WHEREAS, given the dangers of everyday exposure to BPA found in baby feeding bottles and sippy cups, the government should ban these products which are harmful to children's health;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported cancerous baby feeding bottles and sippy cups containing BPA.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
msr

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