

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



'14 APR -1 P5:17

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 593

RECEIVED BY: *fi*

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND ILLEGAL DRUGS AND THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATION AND SUCH OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND ACTIONS THAT ADDRESS THE REPORTED ABUSE OF SOLVENTS AND OTHER FORMS OF ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCES BY STREET CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO INHALE RUGBY IN PLAIN SIGHT AND BROAD DAYLIGHT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF EXPANDING EXISTING LAWS THAT AIM TO PROTECT THE NATION'S YOUTH FROM THE ILL EFFECTS OF THIS SOCIAL MALADY

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs";

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 provides that "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, despite the enactment of landmark measures such as Republic Act 6425 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, which created the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), the implementing arm of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), as well as DDB Board Regulation No. 6, Series of 2007 and Board Regulation No. 2, Series of 2009, which classified toluene-based contact cement products without at least five percent (5%) mustard oil content as dangerous drugs, street children that are addicted to inhalants continue to wander the streets with compact solvent-filled plastic bags in hand;

WHEREAS, contact cement, which is mainly made up of toluene, remains to be a popular drug of choice among drug abusers because of its affordability and accessibility;

WHEREAS, studies have shown that thousands of children on the streets abuse drugs, most often inhalants such as contact cement or rugby, and these children can be observed inhaling rugby in broad daylight and in plain sight, even walking around while sniffing the solvent in plastic bags;

WHEREAS, studies by the World Health Organization have indicated that there is a significantly high incidence of drug abuse amongst children on the streets in the Philippines thereby impressing the need for government action to curb the same;

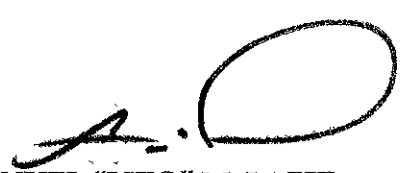
WHEREAS, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, inhalants have a stimulating effect which may result in aggressive behavior or hallucination on the part of the user;

WHEREAS, habitual users of rugby and other toluene-based products may suffer from unintentional weight loss, respiratory discomfort, brain damage, kidney and liver failure, sight and hearing loss, muscle weakness, leukemia and death;

WHEREAS, to escape the harsh realities of poverty and destitution, substance abuse has been resorted to by Filipinos, especially those living in poor urban communities, as this makes them forget about the hunger they endure for days;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs and the Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relation and such other appropriate Senate Committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into government policies and actions that address the reported abuse of solvents and other forms of addictive substances by street children, especially those who inhale rugby in plain sight and broad daylight, with the end in view of expanding existing laws that aim to protect the nation's youth from the ill effects of this social malady.

Approved,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
MLR Senator