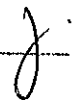


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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

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RECEIVED BY: 

**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, REGARDING THE NATIONWIDE**  
**SCHOOL DEWORMING ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
**HEALTH THAT RESULTED IN THE HOSPITALIZATION OF MORE THAN 1000**  
**GRADE SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution protects the rights of children to health and proper care<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Health (DOH) is mandated to develop national plans, technical standards, and guidelines on health. It provides special tertiary health care services and technical assistance to health providers and stakeholders<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the DOH issued Administrative Order No. 2015-0030 (AO 2015-0030) dated June 26, 2015 outlining the guidelines on the implementation of the National School Deworming Day (NSDD);

**WHEREAS**, the NSDD is a nationwide effort targeting all 5-12 years old (Kindergarten to Grade VI) children enrolled in public elementary schools. Its objective is to deworm approximately 16 million school-aged children enrolled in 38, 659 public elementary schools in one day<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the NSDD was scheduled on July 29, 2015 and pursuant to AO 2015-0030, it shall be done simultaneously in all public elementary schools and will be replicated yearly;

**WHEREAS**, on July 29, 2015, DOH administered albendazole chewable tablets to public school students nationwide;

**WHEREAS**, it was reported that more than 1000 grade school students in 3 Zamboanga provinces were rushed to nearby hospitals in Dipolog City, Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay due to vomiting, stomach ache and dizziness after taking the deworming tablets administered by the DOH<sup>4</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> Sec. 3(2), Art. XV, Sec. 15, Art. II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Health Website; <http://www.doh.gov.ph/node/97.html>.

<sup>3</sup> DOH Administrative Order No. 2015-0030 dated June 26, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Rappler Website; <http://www.rappler.com/nation/100907-students-deworming-zamboanga>.

**WHEREAS**, it was reported that the deworming tablets administered by the DOH were expired. It was shown that the package of the Albendazole, Benzol 400-milligram chewable tablet was marked: “Exp. Date: Dec ’12”<sup>5</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, local government officials in said vicinities claimed that DOH was careless in implementing the deworming activities and that there was lack of information dissemination on the part of DOH, particularly on how to deal with various reactions to the deworming medicine, albendazole<sup>6</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, under AO 2015-0030, the DOH and its partner agencies shall conduct awareness campaigns and other initiatives promoting the NSDD, such as the conduct of orientation and dissemination of IEC materials;

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to evaluate the nationwide deworming program of the DOH to determine whether the the criteria in administering deworming drugs to grade school students and the guidelines and protocols in its implementation were properly observed;

**WHEREAS**, the adverse effects of administering deworming drugs as well as the number of grade school students affected warrant an investigation, in aid of legislation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE**, as it is hereby resolved, directing the appropriate Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, regarding the nationwide school deworming activities conducted by the Department of Health that resulted in the hospitalization of more than 1000 grade school students.

Adopted,



**MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**  
Senator

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<sup>5</sup> Supra citation [4].

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.