

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 523

RECEIVED BY: TS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASING
RISK OF LEAD POISONING AMONG VISAYAN CHILDREN

WHEREAS, the Philippine Constitution, Article 2, Section 13 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, according to a study entitled, "Results from the Quality Improvement Demonstration Study (QIDS): An Unanticipated Finding of Lead Exposure in Children 5 and Younger," conducted by Dr. Orville Solon of the University of the Philippines School of Economics, 1,294 children from 11 Visayan provinces have lead levels in their bloodstream that are way beyond the hazard limit;

WHEREAS, a total of 4,312 children from Capiz, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Bohol, Cebu, Negros Occidental, Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, Camiguin, Biliran, Leyte, and Eastern Samar were tested for the study;

WHEREAS, the children have lead in their bloodstream of up to 20 micrograms per deciliter, which is about twice the 10 ug/dL allowable limit; more than 10 percent of children tested in Bohol, Negros Oriental, Biliran, and Leyte have lead levels in their blood greater than 20 ug/dL, while a smaller percentage of those from other provinces have lead levels of 10-20 ug/dL;

WHEREAS, the mean lead content found in the blood of 4,312 tested children was 9.40 ug/dL, which is near the cut-off of 10 ug/dL stipulated by the Center for Disease Control;

WHEREAS, Dr. Solon found that seven of the 16 identified potential exposure sources for lead had a range of lead concentration near or beyond the hazard limits as determined by regulatory agencies in the United States;

WHEREAS, the children found with lead in their bloodstream were greatly exposed to paint chips, dust wipes, canned tuna, candy wrappers, gasoline, motor oil, and fish weights;

WHEREAS, findings revealed that about 530 to 120,000 parts per million (ppm) of lead from paint chips were found in the children's blood; the hazard limit is 5,000 ppm;

WHEREAS, candy wrappers and gasoline are not supposed to have any lead in them but the study found that children exposed to them also had lead in their blood;

WHEREAS, the range of concentration of lead from gasoline exposure in the bodies of the children was 4.6 to 24.6 ppm; the hazard limit is 13 ppm;

WHEREAS, lead from motor oil and fishing weights was also found in the blood of the children; unfortunately, there are no registered hazard limits because lead from these sources is unregulated;

WHEREAS, Dr. Solon said that high lead levels in the children could cause acute neutral toxicity, cognitive and behavioral impairment and developmental delays; anemic children are more at risk because they absorb more lead; the intelligence quotient levels of the children with "elevated lead levels" in their blood averaged 90; now be it

RESOLVED, that the proper Senate committee shall conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the increasing risk of lead poisoning among Visayan children.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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