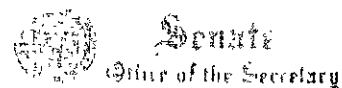
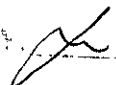


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



11 AUG 11 AIC:24

SENATE
P. S. R. No. 556

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN CURRENT REGULATIONS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE USE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 13 states, "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;"

WHEREAS, Section 15 of the same declares, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;"

WHEREAS, the manufacturing, marketing, promotion, distribution and sale of children's products has become a multi-million peso industry catering to the needs of infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-going kids for products that could enhance a child's physical, mental, behavioral and social development;

WHEREAS, EcoWaste Coalition, a toxic watchdog promoting consumer access to chemical information and consumer safety against chemicals that can impair human and ecological health, has, from time to time, drawn public attention to what has been referred to as "toxic children's products";

WHEREAS, a recent investigation jointly conducted by the EcoWaste Coalition and the International POPs (persistent organic pollutants) Elimination Network (IPEN) involving 435 product samples raised concerns about toxic chemical exposure in children due to the presence of substances from the Philippines Priority Chemicals list in some 30% of children's products bought from various vendors and shops in Metro Manila; 26% in Cebu City, and 26% Davao City;

WHEREAS, data from the EcoWaste-IPEN study of children's products indicated lead contents of up to 38,433 parts per million (ppm), outrageously surpassing the regulatory limit in the United States (US) of 90 ppm for lead in children's products under the US Consumer Product Improvement Act of 2008;

WHEREAS, lead is a known toxicant that has sensory, motor, cognitive, and behavioral impacts, including learning disabilities, attention deficits, disorders in a child's coordination, visual, spatial, and language skills, and anemia, with no safe level of exposure;

WHEREAS, the data collected further showed the presence of mercury in some toy cosmetics, such as lipstick and facial make-up, exceeding the allowable limit of 1 ppm for mercury in cosmetics as set by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, mercury is a neurotoxicant and the developing nervous system is especially vulnerable to damage from mercury and exposure can lead to loss of IQ, abnormal muscle tone, and losses in motor function, attention, and visual-spatial performance;

WHEREAS, the study also found children's products containing significant levels of antimony, arsenic, cadmium and chromium, most of which are also part of the Philippines Priority Chemicals list as substances of special concern;

WHEREAS, the EcoWaste Coalition-IPEN study also revealed the commercial viability of producing toys sans heavy metals since a significant number and variety of products registered *non-detectable or low levels of toxic metals*;

WHEREAS, the study explained the urgency of upgrading existing toy regulations to explicitly and intentionally prohibit the use of toxic chemicals in children's products, put the onus of toy safety on the private sector, and strengthen FDA's capacity and resolve to perform its role as the lead regulatory agency for children's products;

WHEREAS, four key elements of a strong safety policy for children's products are: 1) ban or restrict the use of toxic chemicals in children's products 2) ensure consumers' "right to know" about chemicals in children's products including labeling to promote consumer choice, 3) require chemical manufacturers and importers to generate and disclose the chemical content of children's products as a condition for sale in the Philippines, and 4) promote the design and development of safer children's products using green design, safe natural materials, and green chemistry;

WHEREAS, such a safety policy is essential in order to ensure the right of every Filipino child to enjoy toxic-free toys for a full and healthy childhood development;

WHEREAS, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the need to strengthen current regulations that will eliminate the use of toxic chemicals in children's products.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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