

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. **401**

RECEIVED BY: *js*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT STUDY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN ANN ARBOR LINKING CHEMICALS KNOWN AS PHTHALATES TO PRETERM BIRTHS

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

WHEREAS, various news agencies reported last 19 November 2013 that, according to a recently released study from the University of Michigan School of Public Health in Ann Arbor, chemicals called phthalates may be linked to a raised risk of babies being born early;

WHEREAS, phthalates are chemicals found in products such as plastics, cosmetics, and food packaging to make them soft and flexible;

WHEREAS, it was reported that researchers found that women who delivered babies before 37 weeks gestation had higher levels of phthalates in their urine, compared to women who delivered their children at full term, which is 39 weeks;

WHEREAS, researchers reportedly found that each of the phthalates examined was linked to a risk increase of anywhere from 16% to 65% increase in risk for preterm birth;

WHEREAS, the researchers said that this study could shed light of environmental factors on preterm birth;

WHEREAS, the researchers said that exposure to phthalates was virtually ubiquitous not only in the United States where the study was conducted, but possibly worldwide, and added that preterm births increased for unknown reasons over the past several decades;

WHEREAS, it was reported that past studies also have found evidence that would suggest the chemicals may be tied to shorter pregnancies and lower birth weights;

WHEREAS, researchers said there are many possible routes of exposure depending on the chemical of interest and the scenario, but it was said that the most common route for the chemical to enter the body is through food and beverages, or absorbed through the skin;

WHEREAS, researchers said that although this new study can't prove higher phthalate levels caused women to deliver early or if they should stay away from the chemicals, women may want to limit exposure if they can even though this could prove difficult since there are so many different points of exposure;

WHEREAS, as mandated by Constitution, Congress and concerned government agencies should look into this recent study, to possibly follow it up with further studies from the country's

scientific community, and advise the public, especially women, of the possible health hazards posed by phthalates in consumer products;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the recent study from the University Of Michigan School of Public Health in Ann Arbor linking chemicals known as phthalates to preterm births.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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