

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



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SENATE
S. No. **1991**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides:

SEC. 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

The Philippine government is reportedly spending around ₱2.4 billion yearly on the Department of Health expanded program of immunization. Childhood immunizations are said to be an important tool in protecting children from infectious disease.

However, in the United States, the incidence of chronic, unexplained diseases such as autism, learning disabilities, and other neurological disorders reportedly appears to have increased dramatically in recent years. These disorders are somehow linked to childhood immunizations.

Thus, the proposed bill seeks to do a comprehensive study examining whether there are different health outcomes when comparing vaccinated children and unvaccinated children, including autism and chronic conditions.¹

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Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was originally filed in the U.S. House of Representatives (113th Congress, 1st Session) by Mr. Bill Posey and Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York. <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113hr1757ih/pdf/BILLS-113hr1757ih.pdf>

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SENATE
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1 AN ACT
2 DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE
3 STUDY COMPARING TOTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES, INCLUDING RISK OF
4 AUTISM, IN VACCINATED POPULATION WITH SUCH OUTCOMES IN
5 UNVACCINATED POPULATIONS

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* -- This Act shall be known as the "Vaccine Safety Study
7 Act."

8 SECTION 2. *Study on Health Outcomes in Vaccinated and Unvaccinated*
9 *Populations.* --

10 (a) *In General.* -- The Secretary of Health (referred to as the "Secretary") shall
11 conduct or support a comprehensive study --

12 (1) to compare total health outcomes, including the incidence and risk of
13 autism, in vaccinated populations with such outcomes in unvaccinated populations
14 in the country; and

15 (2) to determine whether exposure to vaccines or vaccine components is
16 associated with autism spectrum disorders, chronic conditions, or other
17 neurological conditions.

18 (b) *Rule of Construction.* -- Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize the
19 conduct or support of any study in which an individual or population is encouraged or
20 incentivized to remain unvaccinated.

1 (c) *Qualifications.* -- With respect to each investigator carrying out the study under
2 this Act, the Secretary shall ensure that the investigator --

3 (1) is objective;

4 (2) is qualified to carry out such study, as evidenced by training
5 experiences and demonstrated skill;

6 (3) is not currently employed by any government health agency;

7 (4) is not currently a member of a board, committee, or other entity
8 responsible for formulating immunization policy on behalf of any government
9 health agency or any component thereof;

10 (5) has no history of a strong position on the thimerosal or vaccine safety
11 controversy; and

12 (6) is not currently an employee of, or otherwise directly or indirectly
13 receiving funds from, a pharmaceutical company.

14 (d) *Target Populations.* -- The Secretary shall seek to include in the study under
15 this Act populations in the country that have traditionally remained unvaccinated for
16 religious or other reasons, which populations members of clinical practices who choose
17 alternative medical practices, practitioners of anthroposophic lifestyles, and others who
18 have chosen not to be vaccinated.

19 (e) *Timing.* -- Not later than 120 days after the date of the effectivity of this Act,
20 the Secretary shall issue a request for proposals to conduct the study required by this Act.
21 Not later than 120 days after receipt of any such proposal, the Secretary shall approve or
22 disapprove the proposal. If the Secretary disapproves the proposal, the Secretary shall
23 provide the applicant involved with a written explanation of the reasons for the
24 disapproval.

1 (f) *Transparency.* -- To facilitate further research by the Secretary or others, the
2 Secretary shall ensure the preservation of all data, including all data sets, collected or
3 used for purposes of the study under this section.

4 SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.* -- If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid
5 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
6 remain valid and subsisting.

7 SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* -- Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
8 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to
9 or is inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
10 accordingly.

11 SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause.* -- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
12 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/ldp26nov2013