


14 JUN 19 P 1:31

SENATE
P.S.R. No. **721**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON A MEDICAL STUDY THAT
LISTS DANGEROUS CHEMICALS LINKED TO BREAST CANCER

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 states that, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 13, Section 14 further states that, "The State shall protect working women by providing safe and healthful working conditions, taking into account their maternal functions, and such facilities and opportunities that will enhance their welfare and enable them to realize their full potential in the service of the nation";

WHEREAS, the *Philippine Star* in its 13 May 2014 issue, reported that a study listed dangerous chemicals linked to breast cancer;

WHEREAS, the *Environmental Health Perspectives*, on 12 May 2014, released the results of a study by the United States Department of Health titled "Exposure Biomarkers for Breast Cancer Epidemiology";

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. researchers, certain chemicals that are common in everyday life have been shown to cause breast cancer in lab rats and are likely to do the same in women;

WHEREAS, the paper listed 17 chemicals to avoid and their common exposure sources:

- 1) Butadiene exposure in the general population is primarily via inhalation of cigarette smoke, automobile exhaust, and gasoline fumes, as well as emissions from industrial facilities, especially synthetic rubber manufacturing and petroleum refining;
- 2) Acrylamide exposure includes starchy foods cooked at high temperatures, tobacco smoke, and water treatment byproducts;
- 3) Toluene diamine and toluene diisocyanates found in uncured or newly finished polyurethane foam, spray-insulation, sealants and coatings, some breast implants;
- 4) Benzidine and aniline dyes are used mostly in Asia in the production of textiles, hair dyes, paints, printing inks, paper, and pharmaceuticals; as reagents and biological stains in laboratories; in the food industries; and in laser, liquid crystal displays, ink-jet printers, and electro-optical devices;
- 5) Benzene exposures from gasoline, tobacco smoke, automobile exhaust, and solvents;
- 6) Methylene chloride used in dry cleaning, hair spray propellant, soil fumigants, food processing, gasoline additives, and paint and spot removers;

- 7) Ethylene oxide; propylene oxide from tobacco smoke, food and medical sterilization, vehicle exhaust, and paint;
- 8) Flame retardants primarily used in plastics and foams;
- 9) Heterocyclic amines from grilled meat;
- 10) Hormones and endocrine disruptors; e.g. endogenous and exogenous estrogens and estrogen mimics from pharmaceutical hormones, consumer products and commercial chemicals with hormonal activity;
- 11) MX is a genotoxic by-product of drinking water disinfection;
- 12) Nitro-PAHs are air pollutants from diesel exhaust;
- 13) Ochratoxin A exposure to mycotoxin in grains, nuts, pork; also present in moldy environments;
- 14) PAHs, such as benzo[a]pyrene (BaP) occurs primarily through inhalation of tobacco smoke or polluted air and ingestion of charred foods;
- 15) Perfluorooctanoic acid and other perfluorinated compounds are used in non-stick and stain-resistant coatings on rugs, furniture, clothes and cookware, as well as in fire-fighting applications, cosmetics, lubricants, paints, and adhesives;
- 16) A number of over-the-counter, veterinary, and prescription medicines that induce mammary tumors; and
- 17) Styrene from building materials and consumer products made from polystyrene, indoor air, cigarette smoke, polystyrene food packaging.

WHEREAS, the authors described the paper as the first to comprehensively list potential breast carcinogens and detail ways for experts to measure them in women's blood and urine;


WHEREAS, the study further recommended seven ways for women to avoid these chemicals:

- 1) Limit exposure to exhaust from vehicles or generators, don't idle your car, and use electric lawn mowers, leaf blowers and weed whackers instead of gas-powered ones;
- 2) Use a ventilation fan while cooking and limit how much burned or charred food you eat;
- 3) Do not buy furniture with polyurethane foam, or ask for furniture that has not been treated with flame retardants;
- 4) Avoid stain-resistant rugs, furniture and fabrics;
- 5) If you use a dry-cleaner, find one which does not use perchloroethylene or other solvents; ask for "wet cleaning";
- 6) Use a solid carbon block drinking water filter;
- 7) Keep chemicals out of the house by taking off your shoes at the door, using a vacuum with a high-efficiency particulate air filter, and cleaning with wet rags and mops;

WHEREAS, to prevent the increase of breast cancer incidents in the country, it is imperative for the State to intensify its information campaign on breast cancer and create, review, or modify legislation with regard to the same;

WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on a medical study that listed dangerous chemicals linked to breast cancer.

Approved,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

/lml