

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: *J.*

SENATE BILL NO. 1079

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CENTERS
REGARDING WOMEN'S HEALTH AND DISEASE PREVENTION AND
CONDUCTING A RESEARCH PROGRAM ON HORMONE
DISRUPTION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many compounds found or introduced into the environment by human activity are capable of disrupting the hormone system of humans and animals. The consequences of such disruption can be profound because of the crucial role hormones play in controlling development. No standardized and validated screens or tests have been developed to routinely and systematically assess chemicals for disruptive effects on hormone systems.

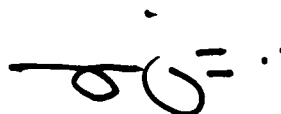
The country for so many decades has experienced an increase in the incidence of such human disorders as childhood cancers, testicular cancer, hypospadias, juvenile diabetes, attention deficit-like hyperactivity disorders, autism, thyroid disorders, learning disabilities, cognitive impairment, and auto-immune disorders. Exposure to hormone-disrupting chemicals may be contributing to these increases. The impact on children's health as a result of prenatal exposures in particular needs further research.

Hormone disruption can occur at very low doses, especially when exposure occurs in the womb or immediately after birth, periods during which rapid development is occurring. Unfortunately, our country lacks the necessary research on this phenomenon and unless timely action is resorted to, there is no way of determining how the impacts of the same could be judiciously and crucially addressed.

The purpose of this measure is to establish regional multidisciplinary centers regarding women's health and disease prevention and to conduct a research program on hormone disruption, precisely to prevent if not completely resolve the apparent onslaught of diseases brought about by hormone disruption.

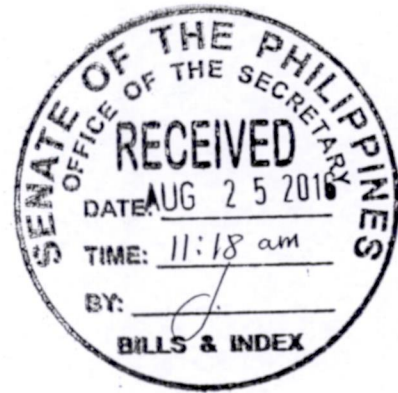
Through these centers, the effects of hormone disruption will be addressed; hence, preventing possible diseases which many women and their children suffer.

Hence, immediate passage of the bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO', with a horizontal line extending to the left.

JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

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ESTABLISHING MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CENTERS
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DISRUPTION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title* - This Act may be cited as the "*Environmental*
2 *Health Research Act of 2016.*"
3
4

5 SEC. 2. *Establishment of Multidisciplinary Research Centers regarding*
6 *Women's Health and Disease Prevention-*
7

8 (A) In General- There shall be established Regional Multidisciplinary
9 Research Centers whose purpose is to conduct multidisciplinary
10 research on environmental factors that may be related to the
11 development of women's health conditions. The centers, to be
12 placed in major regional government or public hospitals, shall be
13 under the management and supervision of a Director, who shall
14 be appointed by the President on the basis of his or her at least
15 ten (10) years of extensive experience as a medical practitioner or
16 researcher in the field and earned management abilities from
17 some reliable institution.
18

19 Said director shall report directly to the Secretary of
20 Health, and coordinate with concerned local government units

1 whose task primarily is to detail personnel who may assist in the
2 many functions discharged by said centers.
3

4 (B) Research, Training, and Information and Education -
5

6 1) IN GENERAL- Each center under subsection (a) shall, with
7 respect to the purpose described in such subsection-
8

9 (a) Conduct basic and clinical research;
10

11 (b) Develop protocols for training physicians, scientists,
12 nurses, and other health and allied health
13 professionals;
14

15 (c) Conduct training programs for such individuals;
16

17 (d) Develop model continuing education programs for such
18 professionals; and
19

20 (e) Disseminate information to such professionals and the
21 public.
22

23
24 (2) PRIORITY FOR PREVENTION ACTIVITIES- In carrying out
25 the activities described in paragraph (1), each center under
26 subsection (a) shall give priority to activities that are
27 directed toward preventing the development in women of
28 the diseases and conditions involved.
29

30
31 (C) Collaboration with Community- Each center under subsection
32 (a) shall establish and maintain ongoing collaborations with
33 community organizations in the geographic area served by the
34 center, including those that represent women with disorders
35 that appear to stem from environmental factors and the health
36 concerns of their offspring.
37

38 (D) Coordination of Centers; Reports- The Director shall, as
39 appropriate, provide for the coordination of information among
40 centers under subsection (a) and ensure regular communication
41 between such centers.
42

43 (E) Structure of Center- Each center assisted under subsection (a)
44 shall use the facilities of a single regional public hospital, or be
45 formed from a consortium of cooperating institutions, meeting

1 such requirements as may be prescribed by the Secretary of
2 Health.

- 3
4 (F) Duration of Support- Support of a center under subsection (a)
5 may be for a period not exceeding five (5) years. Such period
6 may be extended for one (1) or more additional periods not
7 exceeding 5 years, if the operations of such center have been
8 reviewed by an appropriate technical and scientific peer review
9 group established by the Director and if such group has
10 recommended to the Director that such period should be
11 extended.
12

13
14 **SEC. 3. *Research on Hormone Disruption.*** - The Director shall also
15 establish within the regional centers, a comprehensive program to--

- 16
17 (A) Conduct research on the impact of chemicals that affect the
18 health of women and children through disruption of the
19 hormone systems;
20
21 (B) Conduct research on the occurrence of hormone-disrupting
22 chemicals in the environment and their effects on ecological and
23 wildlife health;
24
25 (C) Coordinate the design of a multi-agency research initiative on
26 hormone disruption; and
27
28 (D) Coordinate research on hormone disruption in the Philippines
29 with such research conducted in other nations.
30

31
32 The program established under this section shall provide for the
33 following:

- 34
35 (A) Collection, compilation, publication, and dissemination of
36 scientifically valid information on-
37
38 (i) possible human health effects of hormone-disrupting
39 chemicals, with emphasis on exposures to low doses of
40 individual chemicals and chemical mixtures during
41 critical life stages of development, particularly effects of
42 prenatal exposures on children's health;
43
44 (ii) the extent of human exposure to hormone-disrupting
45 chemicals, with particular emphasis on exposures during

1 critical life stages of development and in residential and
2 occupational settings; and

3
4 (iii) exposure of wildlife species to hormone-disrupting
5 chemicals and possible health effects associated with such
6 exposures.

7
8
9 (B) Research on mechanisms by which hormone-disrupting
10 substances interact with biological systems.

11
12 (C) Research on improved in vitro and in vivo methods to screen and
13 test hormone disruption.

14
15 (D) Research on the identity, levels, transport, and fate of hormone-
16 disrupting chemicals in the environment.

17
18
19 **SEC. 4. Appropriations.** - For the purpose of carrying out this Act, they
20 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for fiscal
21 years 2007 through 2010.

22
23
24 **SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part hereof, is held
25 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not
26 otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

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29 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
30 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation
31 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed,
32 modified or amended accordingly.

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35 **SEC. 7. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
36 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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40 *Approved,*

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