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SENATE
P. S. Res No. 926

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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED PROLIFERATION
OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES LADEN WITH HIGH LEVELS OF LEAD IN THE
COUNTRY

1 WHEREAS, school supplies containing lead were reported to be present in the
2 Philippine market¹;

3 WHEREAS, according to EcoWaste Coalition, of the eight school bags bought
4 and analyzed, six were found to contain lead in the range of 679 to 3,588 parts per
5 million (ppm)²;

6 WHEREAS, Lead is prohibited in the manufacture of school supplies as per
7 DENR Administrative Order 2013-24, or the Chemical Control Order for Lead and
8 Lead Compounds, which also bans the use of paints with lead content above 90 ppm
9 in the production of toys and a wide array of children's products after December 31,
10 2016³;

11 WHEREAS, Health experts do agree that children are most susceptible to lead
12 poisoning. Lead exposure early in life can have many and untreatable
13 consequences, including reduced intelligence, shortened attention span, and
14 behavioral issues such as anti-social and violent behavior⁴;

¹ Manila Bulletin News Website, Safety of school supplies eyed by EcoWaste Coalition, <https://news.mb.com.ph/2018/05/21/safety-of-school-supplies-eyed-by-ecowaste-coalition/>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Philstar News Website, Keep children away from toxic lead, <https://www.philstar.com/lifestyle/health-and-family/2017/10/23/1751680/keep-children-away-toxic-lead>


15 WHEREAS, according to The World Health Organization (WHO), lead
16 poisoning is preventable, yet the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation has
17 estimated that, based on 2016 data, lead exposure accounted for 540 000 deaths
18 and 13.9 million years lost to disability and death due to long-term health effects,
19 with the highest burden in developing regions⁵;

20 WHEREAS, a particular concern is the role of lead exposure in the
21 development of intellectual disability in children⁶;

22 WHEREAS, the Senate and other concerned agencies should ensure that
23 school supplies tainted with lead and other hazardous chemicals do not reach the
24 local market through a more vigilant monitoring of commercial activities and
25 stringent testing of these products;

26 BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the proper Senate
27 committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported proliferation
28 of school supplies laden with high levels of lead in the country.

Adopted,


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator

⁵ World Health Organization Website, International lead poisoning prevention week of action,
http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/objectives/en/

⁶ Ibid.