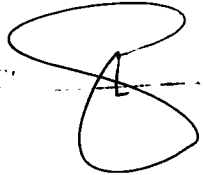


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

24 MAR -5 P1 :24

RECEIVED  


SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 952

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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON REPORTED DEATHS LINKED TO UNAUTHORIZED USE OF INTRAVENOUS (IV) GLUTATHIONE**

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

**WHEREAS**, as early as 2019, the FDA issued FDA Advisory No. 2019-182 to warn the general public on the dangers associated with the unsafe use of glutathione as skin lightening agent;

**WHEREAS**, to date, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved any injectable products for skin lightening. Injectable glutathione is only permitted as an adjunct treatment in cisplatin chemotherapy;

**WHEREAS**, according to the FDA, it is alarming that several health and beauty salons, wellness spas and beauty clinics in the country are offering beauty enhancement and skin treatment services such as intravenous (IV) drip or infusion using skin lightening agents including reduced glutathione, vitamin C and other injections;

**WHEREAS**, according to news reports, in January 2024, Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa cautioned the public that the use of glutathione for skin whitening is off-label and illegal following the death of a woman in Quezon City who underwent unauthorized glutathione and stem cell infusion. According to the victim's death certificate, these treatments were identified as the antecedent cause of death. The immediate cause of death was anaphylactic shock or a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction;

**WHEREAS**, this recent tragedy is not the first fatality associated with glutathione infusions. In 2020, a similar incident occurred when a woman died following a glutathione treatment at a spa in Sampaloc, Manila. News reports indicate that she collapsed after having been administered a dose of Aqua Skin-Diamond Pro Ultra White and Vitarex-C. She was rushed to the nearby UST hospital, and had a fatal cardiac arrest hours later;

**WHEREAS**, in its advisory, the FDA stated that there are no published clinical trials that have evaluated the use of injectable glutathione for skin lightening. There are also no published guidelines for appropriate dosing regimens and duration of treatment;

**WHEREAS**, the FDA also mentioned the side effects and potential risks of the use of injectable glutathione for skin lightening which include: (1) toxic effects on the liver, kidneys, and nervous system; (2) Stevens Johnson Syndrome; (3) kidney stones and hemodialysis (injectable glutathione is sometimes paired with intravenous vitamin C); (3) long term skin cancer; and (4) transmission of infectious agents, such as HIV, hepatitis C and B (this is a particular concern when non-medical practitioner administers this treatment or done in a non-sterile facility);

**WHEREAS**, in a news article published by GMA News Online on January 17, 2024 entitled *DOH: IV gluta 'not safe'*, it was reported that Health Secretary Herbosa emphasized IV glutathione is not safe to be used in clinics and is rather designed for hospitals because it is being used as a rescue medicine for chemotherapeutic complications of cancer;

**WHEREAS**, it is alarming that despite warnings given by the FDA and the Department of Health that the use of injectable glutathione for beauty enhancement and skin treatment is unsafe and illegal, celebrities and public figures continue to endorse the same;


**WHEREAS**, the recent fatality associated with the unauthorized use of IV glutathione brings to the forefront the need for stronger regulatory oversight to prevent such tragic outcomes;

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary that the government continuously implement measures to prevent unauthorized use of IV glutathione and remind the public to: (1) consult only board-certified dermatologists; (2) avoid buying intravenous or injectable products online; and (3) avoid being lured to a promising effect of medicines as beauty products;

**WHEREAS**, it is the duty of the Senate to inquire on the unauthorized use of IV glutathione to ensure the safety and to protect the health of the public by policy or by law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Senate of the Philippines direct the appropriate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on reported deaths linked to unauthorized use of intravenous (IV) glutathione.

Adopted,



**MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**