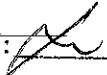


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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 327

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS THAT THE
ANTIMICROBIAL COMPOUNDS TRICLOSAN AND TRICLOCARBAN ARE
HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides: "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

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

WHEREAS, based on recent scientific findings by associate professor Rolf Halden of the Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University, as of November 2010, antimicrobial compounds known as triclosan and triclocarban were found to be unsafe for human health and the environment;

WHEREAS, triclosan and triclocarban are commonly found in various personal care products like antimicrobial soaps; triclosan also is formulated into everyday items ranging from plastics and toys to articles of clothing;

WHEREAS, triclosan was patented in 1964, and began its use in clinical settings as an antibacterial compound for surgical procedures, and was eventually introduced in commercial hand soaps in the 1980s;

WHEREAS, according to updated data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in America, levels of triclosan in humans have increased by an average of 50 percent since 2004;

WHEREAS, according to the report, triclosan and triclocarban are present in 60 percent of all rivers and streams in America and analysis of lake sediments have shown a steady increase in triclosan since the 1960s, and it could be safely assumed that a considerable amount can also be found in the same bodies of water here in the Philippines since the products with those compounds are also used locally;

WHEREAS, scientific research also found that triclosan and triclocarban accumulate in wastewater sludge and are transferred to soils and natural water environments, where they were observed to persist for months or years;

WHEREAS, these compounds reportedly contain chlorinated benzene ring structures which make them notoriously difficult to break down; they are also found to be

averse to water, tending to stick to particles, decreasing their availability for breakdown processes and facilitates long-range transport in water and air;

WHEREAS, the accumulation of these antimicrobials in the environment were said to exert selective pressure on microorganisms exposed to them, which increases the likelihood of microorganisms developing resistance from the very antimicrobials developed to kill them, therefore producing potential hazards to human health;

WHEREAS, both triclosan and triclocarban were also linked to endocrine disruption, with potential adverse impacts on sexual and neurological development;

WHEREAS, Congress, in formulating national policies with respect to recent scientific discoveries, inventions and research, should look into the latest findings on these antimicrobial compounds that affect the health of Filipinos and the country's environment and natural resources;

WHEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to direct the proper Senate committees, to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation, on the recent scientific findings that the antimicrobial compounds triclosan and triclocarban are hazardous to health and the environment.

Adopted,

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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