

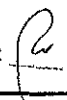
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 310

RECEIVED BY: 

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RETURN OF SOME TOXIC WHITENING PRODUCTS IN THE MARKET, DESPITE BEING BANNED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION FOR HIGH MERCURY CONTENT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF TIGHTENING POLICIES ON THE SALE AND/OR IMPORTATION OF PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS THAT POSE HEALTH RISKS TO CONSUMERS**

*Whereas*, Sec. 3 of Republic Act 9711 or the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Act of 2009 states:

“It is hereby declared a policy of the State to adopt, support, establish, institutionalize, improve and maintain structures, processes, mechanisms and initiatives that are aimed, directed and designed to: (a) protect and promote the right to health of the Filipino people XXX”;

*Whereas*, some skin lightening ingredients, mercury being one of them, work extremely well in the short-term but are dangerous to a person’s well-being and the long-term health of their skin;

*Whereas*, the symptoms of mercury poisoning include emotional disturbances, unsteadiness, inflammation of the mouth and gums, general fatigue, memory loss, forgetfulness and headaches;

*Whereas*, excess mercury in the system has also been known to cause kidney problems (membranous nephropathy);

*Whereas*, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) issued three Circulars this year banning various skin lightening products, mostly imported from China, for containing excessive levels of mercury in direct violation of RA 9711;

*Whereas*, several months ago, the FDA had banned 28 skin whitening products for exceeding the allowable mercury content limit of one part per million;

*Whereas*, recently, at least ten (10) toxic whitening products resurface in markets, particularly in some health and beauty shops and small drug stores;<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.philstar.com/Article.aspx?articleId=637148&publicationSubCategoryId=65>

*Whereas*, the FDA-banned whitening products still being sold are: Beauty Girl Ginseng and Green Cucumber, Beauty Girl Olive and Sheep Essence, Dr. Bai, Jiao Li 7-Days Eliminating Freckle AB Set, Jiao Li 10-Days Eliminating Freckle Day and Night Set, Jiaoli Huichusu, Jiaoli Huichusu Whitening Speckles Removal Cream, Jiaoli Miraculous Cream, JJJ Magic Spot Removing Cream, and S'Zitang;

*Whereas*, in 1976, the use of mercury in cosmetic products was banned in member-countries of the European Union in 1976, while the US banned the use of mercury in skin bleaching creams much later in 1990;

*Whereas*, there is need to implement stringent measures that will deter importers and store owners from selling toxic skin whitening/lightening products to protect Filipino consumers from mercury exposure and/or poisoning: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, and other appropriate committees, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the return of some toxic whitening products in the market, despite being banned by the Food and Drug Administration for high mercury content, with the end in view of tightening policies on the sale and/or importation of personal care products that pose health risks to consumers.

Adopted,



**MANNY VILLAR**  
Senator