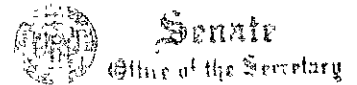


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 539

RECORDED BY:

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION
URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND COMMERCE AND OTHER
APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE SAFETY OF INTRAVENOUS (IV) GLUTATHIONE OR
INJECTABLE GLUTATHIONE, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROTECTING
CONSUMERS WITH REGARD TO THE REGULATION, SALE AND
ADMINISTRATION OF THE SAME, CITING THE PUBLIC WARNING ISSUED BY
THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Whereas, Article 2 of Republic Act 7394 or the Consumer Code of the Philippines upholds that, "It is the policy of the State to protect the interest of the consumer, XXX; Towards this end, the State shall implement measures to achieve the following objectives: a. protection against hazards to health and safety; XXX;

Whereas, further, Article 20 of RA 7394 states that, "The State shall ensure safe and good quality of foods, drugs, cosmetics and devices, and regulate their production, sale distribution and advertisement to protect the health of the consumer.";

Whereas, there is a growing popularity of the substance glutathione (also known as GSH) which is a natural antioxidant and anti-carcinogen produced by humans that aids in cellular regeneration, promotes a healthy immune system and prevents harmful pollutants and toxic chemicals from going into the liver;

Whereas, the liver, spleen, kidneys, pancreas, and the lens and cornea, have the highest glutathione concentrations in the body;

Whereas, glutathione exists in all fruits and vegetables like asparagus, avocado, grapefruit, okra, orange, potato, spinach, strawberries, tomato and watermelon, with some vegetables as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and parsley stimulating the production of glutathione from the body;

Whereas, clinical studies have shown that glutathione kills an enzyme called tyrosinase, which facilitates the production of melanin that makes the skin darker, thus it is commercially marketed as a supplement that helps lighten/whiten skin;

Whereas, in Asia, oral glutathione is also referred to as skin whitening capsule, whitening pill, bleaching pill, or skin whitener;

Whereas, Filipinos, being naturally dark-skinned, have welcomed the introduction in the market of whitening products, particularly glutathione supplements and glutathione-based products like soaps and lotions;

Whereas, experts believe oral supplementation of all forms of glutathione does not raise tissue levels of glutathione because it is too big a molecule to enter the cells and it is broken down by stomach acids before it even reaches the cells;

Whereas, recent studies show that in order to truly raise reduced glutathione levels in the body, intravenous (IV) therapy must be undertaken;

Whereas, intravenous (or injectable) glutathione is the term used for glutathione that is injected directly to the bloodstream;

Whereas, the country's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a public warning against the alleged side effects of glutathione injections for the purpose of whitening;

Whereas, FDA warned that repeated injections of the drug could lead to kidney failure, blood poisoning and toxic epidermal necrolysis, in which a large portion of the skin peels off, exposing the human body to many infections;

Whereas, it added that high dosage of glutathione injections might cause skin rashes, severe abdominal pain, steven-johnson syndrome, derangement in thyroid function and gastrointestinal pain;

Whereas, only doctors and nurses who are trained to do intravenous injections are qualified to inject IV glutathione to patients: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committee on Trade and Commerce and other appropriate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the safety of intravenous (IV) glutathione or injectable glutathione, with the end in view of protecting consumers with regard to the regulation, sale and administration of the same, citing the public warning issued by the Food and Drug Administration.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR
Senator