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SENATE  
P.S. RES. NO. 730

13Y. *[Signature]*

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Introduced by Senator Manny B. Villar

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE COMMITTEES ON TRADE AND COMMERCE, HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY, AND QUALITY AFFORDABLE MEDICINES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION PRACTICES OF HERBAL AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF GUARANTEEING SAFETY AND THAT THE PRODUCTS ARE FREE FROM CONTAMINATION OR BACTERIA.**

**Whereas**, Article II Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution states: “[t]he State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”;

**Whereas**, Article XIII, Section 12 thereof also states: “[t]he State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health, manpower development, and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems.”;

**Whereas**, in response to the people’s need for a proven safe and effective traditional and alternative health care products, services and technologies, Republic Act No. 8423, otherwise known as “Traditional Alternative Medicine Act (TAMA)” law, was passed on December 7, 1977;

**Whereas**, recently that the Department of Health (DOH) embraced the medicinal value of herbal plants by approving ten (10) medicinal plants to be used as herbal medicine in Philippines due to its beneficial effects;

**Whereas**, these medicinal herbs recognized by the DOH are as follows: Akapulko (*Cassia alata*) to treat insect bites, Ampalaya (*Momordica charantia*) for diabetes, Bawang (*Allium sativum*) for infections, Bayabas (*Psidium guajava*) for cough, Lagundi (*Vitex negundo*) for cough, colds and fever, Niyog-niyogan (*Quisqualis indica* L.) for intestinal parasites, Sambong (*Blumea balsamifera*) for kidney stones, Tsaang Gubat (*Ehretia microphylla* Lam.) for eczema, Ulasimang Bato | Pansit-Pansitan (*Peperomia pellucida*) for gout, Yerba Buena (*Clinopodium douglasii*) for rheumatism;

**Whereas**, the growth of the herbal medicine industry has since grew significantly since the passage of RA 8423 in 1977 and said herbal medicines have in fact successfully penetrated the markets and is being sold in drugstores and supermarkets and are even advertised in radio and television;

**Whereas**, there have been reports circulating that certain herbal medicines may be dangerous for the people’s health;

**Whereas**, for example, there were reports that certain herbal medicines available in the market i.e. herbal cough syrups, were found to contain bacteria beyond the safety standards set by the Philippine Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and thus can be harmful to the body if ingested;

**Whereas**, it was also reported that ingestion of high levels of aerobic bacteria cause a number of potential adverse effects, ranging from an upset stomach to more serious symptoms such as fever and gastrointestinal symptoms including vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea, which in severe cases, could lead to life-threatening dehydration;

**RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to urge the Committees on Trade and Commerce, Health and Demography, and Quality Affordable Medicines Oversight Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the manufacture, storage and distribution practices of herbal and alternative medicines with the end in view of guaranteeing safety and that the products are free from contamination or bacteria.

**Adopted,**



Manny Villar