Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTAIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 516

INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE DARLENE R. ANTONINO-CUSTODIO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 13, Article II of the New Constitution provides, as follows:

"Section 13. The state recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social wellbeing. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affair."

The Filipino youth today is confronted with so any problems arising from (1) poverty, (2) lack of education, (3) drugs, (4) vice, (5) crime, and (6) unemployment. Coupled with the rise in the number of street children in urban centers, are ever increasing incidents of child abuse, forced labor and pedophilia, which compound their miserable plight.

The government has not shown any concrete program to alleviate the plight of these unfortunate young men and women, and therefore, it is high time that we do something for them. The initial step towards a long-range plan for them is to establish an integrated youth center in all fifteen (15) regions of the country. These centers shall be envisioned as transient shelters, lodging facilities and skill training centers for those who are in need of immediate assistance and attention. These centers shall also serve as a one-stop youth activity center that can provide lodging, recreation facilities, and most importantly, provide livelihood and skills training, community service and voluntary work. These centers shall be treated as extension offices of the regional offices of the Council for the Welfare of Children and Youth, department of Social Welfare and Development.

In view of the foregoing considerations, approval of this bill is strongly recommended.

DARLENE R. ANTONINO-CUSTODIO

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING YOUTH CENTERS IN ALL FIFTEEN (15) REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the Youth Center Act of 2004."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is a declared policy of the state to promote and protect the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being of the FILIPINO Youth. For this purpose, the state shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach towards the development of our youth, including in them patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*

(a) Center – refers to the place established under this Act with recreational, educational, health and social programs and lodging-type facilities designed for the benefit of the youth in a particular region.
(b) Youth – refers to those persons whose age ranges from ten (10) to twenty-one (21) years, who are unemployed, out of school, and/or disabled/handicapped.

SEC. 4. *Establishment of Centers.* _There is hereby established a Youth Center in all fifteen (15) regions of the country, which centers shall be operated by an administrator and adequate support staff, and shall be treated as an extension office of the Council for the Welfare of Children and Youth, department of Social Welfare and Development.

SEC. 5. *Appropriation.* The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act shall be included in the general appropriation Act of the year following its enactment into law and every year thereafter, under the

Council for the Welfare is Children and Youth, Department of Social Welfare and Development.

SEC. 6. *Rules and Regulations*. - Department of Social Welfare and Development shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act within 90 days from approval.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity*. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two newspapers of general publication.

Approved,