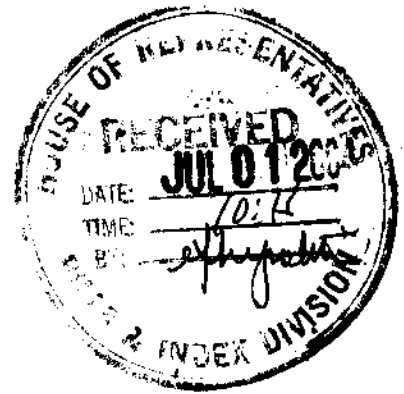


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 149



Introduced by Honorable Constantino G. Jaraula

EXPLANATORY NOTE

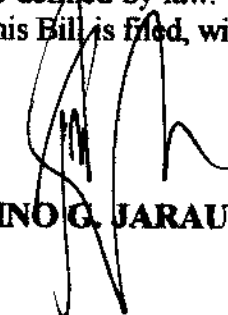
This Bill was filed with the 12th Congress as House Bill No. 6179, with the following Explanatory Note:

"The Constitution mandates that the "The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception. The natural right and duty of parents in the rearing of the youth for civic efficiency and the development of the moral character shall receive the support of the Government." (Section 12, Article II)

"In the debate of the Constitutional Commission of 1986 on the above-quoted provision two matters were clarified and emphasized namely: a) that conception begins with the combination, fusion, or integration of the ovum and the sperm cell forming the human nucleus, or the fertilization itself; and b) that the definition of the beginning of human life as from 'conception' shall be provided by appropriate legislation.

"Sixteen (16) years have since passed without this provision being given the "flesh", neglecting the constitutional mandate. This hiatus has given misconceptions, and misdirection in the appreciation of human life – its beginning, its dignity, its value. This is unfortunate as it is miserable."

It is imperative that the true meaning of the beginning of human life as clearly articulated and intended by the Constitutional Commission must be defined by law. This is a solemn duty as it is the exclusive responsibility of Congress. This Bill is filed, with all humility, in fulfillment of this duty and responsibility.


CONSTANTINO G. JARAULA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 149

Introduced by Honorable Constantino G. Jaraula

AN ACT
DEFINING THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN LIFE,
RECOGNIZING RIGHTS THEREUNDER, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the HUMAN LIFE ACT of 2004.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to fully implement constitutional mandates especially in regard to persons, human dignity, ethical and moral standards. Correspondingly, it is imperative that appropriate legislation be enacted to give flesh to said mandates or standards.

SEC. 3. Beginning of human life. The beginning of human life shall be reckoned from the moment of the combination, fusion, and integration of the ovum and the sperm cell resulting to the formation of the human nucleus, or fertilization thereof.

SEC. 4. Recognition of rights. From the moment of the formation of the human nucleus or fertilization, all rights inherent in, or accorded to human persons, as appropriate, shall be recognized in the unborn.

SEC. 5. Penalty. Any violation of any provision hereof shall be punished with a fine of not less than Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000), or imprisonment of not less than *prision mayor*, or both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the Court considering all attendant circumstances.

SEC. 6. Separability clause. If any part, section or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 7. Repealing clause. All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and regulations, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED,

Approved,