

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

355
House Bill No. _____

Introduced by Representative Susan A. Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XV, Section 3(2) of the Constitution asserts that the State must defend the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development. The Philippines, as party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, must guarantee the protection and preservation of children's rights and welfare through various programs that are concrete and accessible.

Unfortunately, there is still a prevalence of cases where children fall prey to exploitation and abuse in different aspects. More than 200,000 Filipino children, according to a 2001-2006 report from the Children's Rehabilitation Center (CRC), have been victimized as laborers, prostitutes, and soldiers. Aside from this, children all over the country have been exposed to poverty, extreme hunger, and the lack of education, thereby endangering their well-being as future productive citizens of the country.

In order to respond to this dilemma, one step that needs to be undertaken is to raise the awareness and concern of Filipinos of all ages regarding the rights and welfare of children. Thus, this bill seeks to mark every second Sunday of October as National Children's Day. It is through heightening the level of consciousness that further successful efforts on uplifting the conditions of the Filipino child can be achieved. This, in turn, would aid in securing generations of Filipinos who would then ensure the growth and development of the nation.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


SUSAN A. YAP

Representative, Second District of Tarlac

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY IN THE
COUNTRY ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR

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 "National Children's Day Act".

SEC. 2. The second Sunday of October of every year shall hereby be known as the "National Children's Day" to promote consciousness over the protection of the rights of Filipino children and the importance of fostering their well-being to secure the growth and development of society.

SEC. 3. Pursuant to the observance of the National Children's Day, an annual program of activities shall be prepared and implemented with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the National Youth Commission (NYC) and the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) as lead agencies.

In support thereof, the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall facilitate and encourage the commemoration of this day in all schools, public and private, nationwide.

The Philippine Information Agency (PIA), in coordination with the DSWD, DepEd, CHED, NYC and CWC shall ensure the effective information dissemination of this Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

Approved,