

**Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 2298

Introduced by Honorable Godofredo V. Arquiza

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create an "*Elder Abuse Awareness Week*" to increase awareness of elder abuse and seek ways to resolve their problem.

Section 11, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

"The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights."

"Elder abuse" is a general term used to describe certain types of harm to older adults. It may mean elder mistreatment or senior abuse. The World Health Organization defines it as "a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person. Elderly abuse occurs even in the developed countries and many laws have been in place around the globe to safeguard the rights of senior citizens.

It is the duty of the State to enact measures to protect human dignity and safeguard the rights of the Senior Citizens and elderly. It is about time that we set a special day to generate awareness about *elder abuse* and seek ways and means to resolve their problems.

Positive emotions have lasting benefits that can transform a person and change his life. We must encourage our elders to keep their mind, body and spirit active, alert and be socially and physically fit. We should give our senior citizens and elderly the importance in our society that they truly deserve since their experience and knowledge have offered a wonderful resource to our country.

In view of the foregoing considerations, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA
GOVERNOR

**Fifteenth Congress
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HOUSE BILL NO. 2298

Introduced by Honorable Godofredo V. Arquiza

AN ACT CREATING AN ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK

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

Section 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK.”

Section 2. **Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby declared that the State values the dignity of Senior Citizens and the Elderly and guarantees full respect for human rights. The State also recognizes the need to protect the Senior Citizens and the Elderly, from any form of abuse for their personal safety and security.

Towards this end, the State shall exert efforts to make people aware about all forms of abuses being committed against Senior Citizens and the Elderly and seek ways to resolve these problems in keeping with the fundamental freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution.

Section 3. **Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

(a) "Senior citizen" or "elderly" shall mean any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years old or older as

defined in Republic Act No. 9257, otherwise known as the "*Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003*."

(b) "*Elderly*" shall mean any resident citizen of the Philippines who is between the age of fifty (50) and fifty-nine (59) years old;

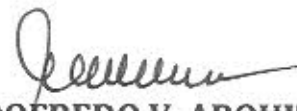
Section 4. *ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK*. – There shall be An "*Elder Abuse Awareness Week*" which shall be celebrated every *Third Week of June* to recognize and make people aware of the abuses being committed against our Senior Citizens and elderly members of our family.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the DSWD shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause*. – If any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions shall not be affected.

Section 7. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,


GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA
Senior Citizens' Party List