

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2609

Introduced by HON. IRWIN C. TIENG
and HON. MARIANO MICHAEL M. VELARDE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Mental health illness among children has serious fiscal consequences because they affect children's ability to learn and increase their propensity for violence, alcohol and substance abuse, and other delinquent behaviors that are extremely costly to treat. A number of children suffer from mental illness severe enough to cause some level of impairment; yet only few of these children receive mental health services. Many mental health problems are largely preventable or can be minimized with promotion and early intervention services that have been shown to be effective and that reduce the need for more costly interventions.

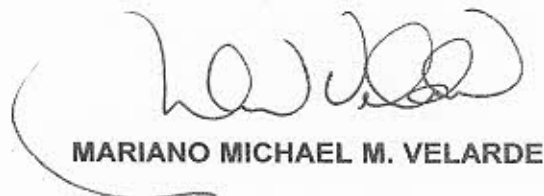
Early intervention is important in order for children to have the best developmental, behavioral, and adaptive outcomes. Children's social and emotional developments are essential underpinnings to school readiness and academic success.

This bill seeks to develop comprehensive and coordinated children's mental health system resulting in children with mental illness being identified and receiving intervention services earlier. Earlier intervention will improve these children's outcomes and, hopefully, result in less reliance on special education and developmental disability services.

Hence, immediate passage of the Bill is earnestly sought.



IRWIN C. TIENG



MARIANO MICHAEL M. VELARDE

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HOUSE BILL NO. 2609

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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE
EARLY DETECTION AND TIMELY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN
WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

***BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines
in Congress assembled.*

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Early Detection and Intervention Services for Children with Mental Illness Act.”

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost.

Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* The following terms shall mean:

- a. **Mental Illness** shall mean any of various psychiatric conditions, usually characterized by impairment of a child’s normal cognitive, emotional, or behavioral functioning, and caused by physiological or psychosocial factors.
- b. **Intervention** shall mean educational methods and positive behavioral support strategies designed to improve the condition of a child suffering from mental disorder.

Section 4. The Department of Health shall undertake to develop a program providing for comprehensive accessible and affordable early mental health detection and timely intervention services for children. The objectives of this program includes but not limited to the following:

- a. To increase awareness, reduce barriers to screening and diagnosis, promote evidence-based interventions for children with mental disorder or other developmental disabilities.
- b. To build a qualified and adequately trained workforce prepared to provide mental health services for children and their families.
- c. To conduct a comprehensive, multi-faceted public awareness campaign to reduce the stigma of mental illness and educate families, the general public, and other key audiences about the benefits of children’s social and emotional development, and how to access services.
- d. To create a quality-driven children’s mental health system with shared accountability among agencies and programs that conducts ongoing needs assessments, uses outcome indicators and benchmarks to measure progress, and implements quality data tracking and reporting system.

Section 5. The Department of Health shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Section 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Section 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Section 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,