

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**

**FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 4614

**Introduced by Representatives
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO and GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO**

**AN ACT
REQUIRING INSTRUCTIONS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS ON THE
RAMIFICATIONS OF USING ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUGS DURING
PREGNANCY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11, of the Constitution states that "the State shall 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. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers."

Teenage pregnancy is a well-known problem. Unfortunately, another current problem has become the birth of newborns that test positive for drugs and suffer neurological, developmental, learning and other problems after birth. Also, the use of alcohol during pregnancy has been identified as the cause of fetal alcohol syndrome in newborns. Many substances including alcohol, nicotine, and drugs of abuse can have negative effects on the developing fetus because they are transferred to the fetus across the placenta. For example, nicotine has been connected with premature birth and low birth weight as has the use of cocaine. Scientific studies have shown that babies born to marijuana users were shorter, weighed less, and had smaller head sizes than those born to mothers who did not use the drug. Smaller babies are more likely to develop health problems.

Teenagers should know the medical consequences to their children and the legal consequences to themselves resulting from the use of drugs or alcohol during pregnancy. By requiring additional instruction on this subject as part of an already required health course in secondary schools which teaches about drugs and alcohol, teenagers will be made aware of the consequences of their behavior.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the passage of this proposed bill is earnestly sought.


DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Camarines Sur


GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Pampanga

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

SECTION 1. *Instruction Regarding Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drugs.* – Instruction regarding alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs shall be an integral part of health education course in secondary school curriculum. Such instruction shall include the medical risks inherent in the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs during pregnancy. Any such course shall be taught by teachers holding a certificate to teach health.

SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,