

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Fifteenth Congress

Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6647



Introduced by Hon. Mary Mitzi "Mitch" L. Cajayon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Bullying is one of the forms of violence against children that has now become a prevalent issue facing school children and their parents in the country. It is generally defined as an act of repeated aggressive behavior to intentionally hurt another person physically or mentally.

A study entitled, "Bullying in Middle Schools: An Asian Pacific Regional Study (2008, Vol. 9, No. 4) has found out that Filipino children have a higher rate of being "made fun of" by other children, about 57 to 58 percent than school children in Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and Taiwan. The Philippines ranked higher than the rest of other countries in all categories like 39 percent theft; 36 percent were physically hurt; 45 percent were forced to do things they didn't want; and 30 percent were left out of groups.

In view of the spate of bullying incidents and bullying-related crimes in the country, this proposal aims to raise the awareness and concern of Filipinos regarding bullying prevention and the importance of creating safe and protective spaces for children in order to promote universal primary education.

This bill seeks to declare the month of July as the "National Bullying Awareness and Prevention Month" being the immediately succeeding month after the opening of classes every school year. Hence, it is an opportune time to raise awareness on the problem of bullying in schools and to conduct activities to stop this form of violence against children.

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


MARY MITZI "Mitch" L. CAJAYON

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL BULLYING
AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH IN THE COUNTRY ON JULY 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 Bullying Awareness and Prevention Month Act".

SEC. 2. The month of July of every year shall hereby be known as the "National Bullying Awareness and Prevention Month" to raise awareness of bullying prevention and the importance of protecting the youth from all forms of abuse, cruelty and exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development with the end view of promoting universal primary education.

SEC. 3. Pursuant to the observance of the National Bullying Awareness and Prevention Month, an annual program of activities shall be prepared by the Department of Education.

The Department of Education shall lead public and private school communities at all levels nationwide in organizing consciousness raising activities on the problem and prevention of bullying including other forms of abuse, cruelty and exploitation against children.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.