



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 1641

Introduced by Representative Susan A. Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XV, Section 3(2) of the Constitution states 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.

Proclamation No. 74, series of 1992 instituted the commemoration of a National Children's Day on October 17. This was in response to the Universal Children's Day as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1959. However, this was superseded by Proclamation No. 267, series of 1993.

Since 1993 the Philippines has been celebrating the month of October as Children's Month in accordance with Proclamation 267. The designation of a month is to commemorate more the Filipino children which will emphasize further the importance of their role within the Filipino family and the Philippine society.

To raise the awareness and concern of Filipinos regarding the rights and welfare of children, this bill seeks to legislate the celebration of Children's Month. It is through heightening the level of consciousness that further successful efforts on uplifting the conditions of the Filipino child can be achieved.

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


SUSAN A. YAP

Representative, 2nd District of Tarlac

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AN ACT

DECLARING THE CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S
MONTH IN THE COUNTRY ON 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 Month Act".

SECTION 2. The month of October of every year shall hereby be known as the "National Children's Month" 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.

SECTION 3. Pursuant to the observance of the National Children's Month, 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 (NA), in coordination with the DSWD, DepED, CHED, NYC and CWC shall ensure the effective information dissemination of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *official gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,