

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2539



Introduced by Congresswoman Lorna Quinto Velasco

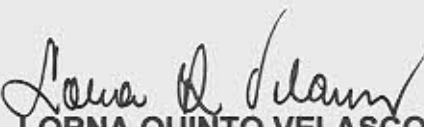
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Pregnant woman and Persons with Disabilities (PWD) face great difficulties in their daily lives due to special health conditions, which affect their physical, intellectual, and emotional well-being. They, along with the children of our Country, can be considered to be the most vulnerable sector of our population. These individuals have a high risk of being the subject or targets of criminals due to their compromised physical abilities, impaired cognitive abilities and judgment, insufficient adaptive behaviors, constant interactions with supposed "protectors" who end up exploiting them, lack of knowledge or inability to protect themselves, and living and working in high-risk environments. Moreover, the felonious intent of unscrupulous people prevents them from living an unhindered and complete life. The crimes and acts committed against them are often overlooked since people are not aware of their extreme vulnerability caused by their special condition.

The State has a mandate to protect its most vulnerable sector of the population from exploitation and atrocities. Our government must take stronger action to ensure that pregnant women and PWDs will not have to worry for their safety and well-being.

Thus, to address this problem, this bill seeks to amend the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines to ensure that pregnant woman and PWDs are protected from criminal acts.

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


LORNA QUINTO VELASCO

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AN ACT AMENDING ACT NUMBER 3815 ENTITLED, "THE REVISED PENAL CODE," BY CLASSIFYING CRIMINAL ACTS COMMITTED AGAINST PREGNANT WOMEN AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AS AN AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE.

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

SECTION 1. Article 14 of "*The Revised Penal Code*" is hereby amended to read as follows."

"Art. 14. *Aggravating circumstances.* — The following are aggravating circumstances:

[22. That the crime be committed against a pregnant woman or a person with disability, provided that a person with disability is a disabled person as defined under Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as "*Magna Carta for Disabled Persons*".]"

SECTION. 2. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, rules, regulations, orders, memoranda or circulars inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,