

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 4793



Introduced by Honorable Rosenda Ann Ocampo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and strives to promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being.

Likewise, the State is duty-bound to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

These guarantees contained in the 1987 Philippine Constitution are now more relevant in the face of the growing problem of teenage pregnancy that cuts across the various social classes in our country today.

In the latest report of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) from 2011-2014, one in every ten women of child bearing age were found to be teenagers from 14 – 19 years of age.

More alarmingly, twenty four (24) babies born every hour in the Philippines came from teenage mothers.

Indeed, the impact and toll caused by this phenomenon that has evolved into a tragic fact of life are manifold and intertwined.

For instance, we have young adults dropping out from school and joining the growing unemployed work force. Infant and maternal mortality rates remain high in the Philippines despite our commitment to the UN Millennium Development Goal. The failure of our government to rein in the annual population growth rate, which is among the highest in the Asia-Pacific region, fueled in big measure by the explosion of teenage pregnancy.

These programs, however, have to be reviewed and evaluated, hence this bill came into being. The evaluation of such programs will enable the authorities to strengthen and if needed, revise them for more applicable implementation. This bill aims to reduce in the long run the rate of teenage

pregnancy by providing young women with informed choices, emotional support and guidance.

For these reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ROSENDA ANN M. OCAMPO

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**"AN ACT
TO INSTITUTE A MECHANISM FOR THE EFFECTIVE
EVALUATION, PROMOTION AND RECOMMENDATION OF
FUNDING FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROGRAMS THAT
AIM TO REDUCE THE RATE OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY"**

*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 ***"Teenage Pregnancy
Reduction Act"***.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy - The State recognizes the vital role
of the youth in nation-building. This recognition mandates the State to assist
the youth in all aspects of their human development.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms - For purposes of this Act, the terms:

- (a) ***Programmatic Approaches*** with respect to prevention programs,
includes advocating abstinence from sexual activity; providing family
planning services; fostering academic achievement; mentoring by
adults; providing employment assistance or job training; providing
professional counselling or peer counseling; providing for recreational
or social events; and any combination thereof;
- (b) ***Prevention Program*** means a program for the prevention of
pregnancy in adolescents;
- (c) ***Secretary*** means the Secretary of the Department of Health.

**SEC. 4. Evaluation of Effective Programs for Prevention of
Adolescent Pregnancy** - The Secretary shall arrange for the evaluation of a
wide variety of existing programs designed in whole or in part to prevent
pregnancy in adolescents, including programs that do not receive funds from

the government for the operation of the programs. The purpose of the evaluation shall be the determination of the following:

- a) The effectiveness of such programs in reducing adolescent pregnancy;
- b) The factors contributing to the effectiveness of the programs; and
- c) The feasibility of replicating the programs in other locations.

SEC. 5. *Participation of Government and Private Organizations*

- In carrying out the evaluation under the preceding Section, the Secretary shall as appropriate:

- a) Provide for the participation of the Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Population Commission (POPCOM), and
- b) Provide for the participation of organizations with demonstrated expertise in conducting evaluations of adolescent pregnancy prevention program.

SEC. 6. *Design of Evaluation* - Subject to Section 7, the Secretary shall select a design for the evaluation under Section 4 from among proposals that:

- a) Provide for the evaluation of programs in various geographic regions;
- b) With respect to the populations served by the programs provide for determining factors that are specific to various socio-economic, age groups and factors that are specific to gender; and,
- c) Meet such other criteria as the Secretary may establish.

SEC. 7. *Measures of Effectiveness* - The Secretary shall define the measures of effectiveness used in evaluating the programs designed to reduce the rate of adolescent pregnancy, and shall include a variety of measures of effectiveness in the definition.

SEC. 8. *Submission of Report* - Not later than one (1) year after the effectivity of this Act, the evaluation under Section 4 shall be completed and a report shall be submitted to Congress that describes the findings made in the evaluation and provides recommendations for future programs designed to reduce the rate of adolescent pregnancy.

SEC. 9. *Dissemination of Information* - After the submission of the report under Section 8, the Secretary shall disseminate the findings and recommendations presented in the report. The categories of individuals to whom the information is disseminated shall include administrators of prevention programs, public and private entities providing financial support to such programs, organizations working on such programs, professional medical associations, entities providing public health services, entities providing social work services, and school administrators.

SEC. 10. *Rule of Construction* - The provisions of this Act apply with respect to a prevention program without regard to which of the various

programmatic approaches for the prevention of pregnancy in adolescents is the focus of the program.

SEC. 11. *Appropriation* - To carry out the provision of the Act, such amount as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the establishment of programs designed to reduce the rate of adolescent pregnancy shall be included in the annual appropriation of the Department of Health.

SEC. 12. *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.

SEC. 13. *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.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity Clause* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.