

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Second Regular Session
17th Congress

HOUSE BILL NO. **6025**



Introduced by Representative Makmod D. Mending, Jr.
AMIN Party-list

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 2(1), Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution states that:

"Sec. 2. The State shall:

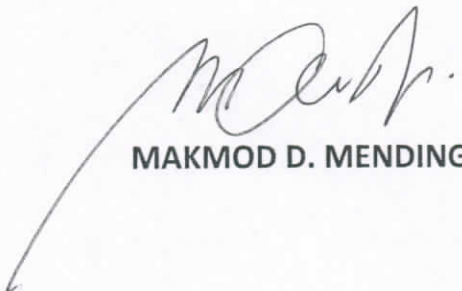
(1) Establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society."

Education is a basic right. The State provides free education for school-aged children. However, due to armed conflicts, generalized violences, violations of human rights or natural or man-made disasters, children, along with their families, are forced to leave their place of habitat where they may have been able to access education. These internally displaced child learners experience disruption of their education and psycho-social trauma.

As of May 2017, the number of internally displaced persons (IDP) has reached 218,665 in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao alone. Reports also show that schooling of at least 22,000 elementary and high school students are displaced in Marawi. There are other displaced child learners in other areas across the country as well. Non-government organizations, in coordination with the Department of Education, provide temporary learning spaces and learners' kits to children in evacuation centers but these programs are not permanent.

This bill seeks to provide access to education for internally displaced child learners. The proposed measure aims to bring the basic learning needs as well as alternative learning systems for all internally displaced child learners. It ensures the prompt resumption of educational services to child learners.

In order to give these displaced child learners a sense of normalcy, relief and protection in time of displacement, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



MAKMOD D. MENDING, JR.

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1 **AN ACT**
2 **PROVIDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED CHILD**
3 **LEARNERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
6 *Congress assembled:*
7

8 SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Access to
9 *Education in Time of Displacement Act.*”

10 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to establish,
11 maintain and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of
12 education relevant to the needs of the people and society. The State also
13 recognizes the need to protect the fundamental right of children to education
14 even in times of disaster, calamity, armed conflict and other emergency
15 situation. Towards this end, the State shall take appropriate measures to
16 provide education for internally displaced child learners.

17 SEC. 3. **Access to Education for Displaced Child Learners.** – All displaced
18 child learners shall receive basic education to meet the learning needs for
19 primary and secondary education as well as alternative learning system for
20 those with special needs.

1 As used in this Act, *internally displaced child learners* refer to children
2 who were forced to leave their home or place where there may have been able
3 to access education in order to avoid the effects of armed conflicts,
4 generalized violences, violations of human rights or natural or man-made
5 disasters.

6 SEC. 4. ***Needs Assessment.*** – Whenever there is occurrence of internal
7 displacement of children that results to the interruption of the education of
8 child learners in the primary and secondary education, the Department of
9 Education (DepEd) shall conduct a needs assessment for the continuation of
10 the education of child learners and to assist and support their well-being
11 during the time of displacement.

12 SEC. 5. ***Internally Displaced Child Learners Educational Program.*** – The
13 DepEd, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and
14 Development and the local government units, shall establish and implement an
15 educational program for internally displaced child learners with the following
16 objectives:

17 (a) Thorough assessment to obtain information, profile and school
18 mapping for the continuation of education of internally displaced child
19 learners;

20 (b) Provide safe and conducive areas or spaces for learning,
21 education and play activities as well as appropriate educational and play
22 materials;

23 (c) Prompt resumption of educational services; and

24 (d) Formulation and implementation of special curriculum to meet
25 the educational needs of the internally displaced child learners.

26 The DepEd shall determine the duration for the implementation of the
27 program.

1 SEC. 6. ***Training of Qualified Teachers.*** – The DepEd shall provide a pool
2 of qualified teachers in every region who are specifically trained to cater to the
3 needs of child learners in time of displacement. The teachers shall have a
4 continuing education, training in child-centered and participatory teaching and
5 learning methodologies to systematically handle psychologically traumatized
6 children, psycho-social intervention and positive discipline.

7 SEC. 7. ***Division on Internal Displacement Education.*** – There shall be a
8 regular division in the DepEd to attend to the mandate herein stated. It shall
9 recommend to the Secretary of Education the approval of Internal
10 Displacement Education Preparedness and Response Plan on areas where
11 displacement occurs.

12 SEC. 8. ***Appropriations.*** – The amount of Fifty million pesos
13 (P50,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of any funds in
14 the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated to carry out the mandate of
15 this Act. It shall be utilized in such manner and subject to such conditions and
16 limitations as may be prescribed by the Department of Budget and
17 Management. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued
18 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the
19 Department of Education.

20 SEC. 9. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Secretary of
21 Education shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Social Welfare and
22 Development and the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, issue
23 the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this
24 Act.

25 SEC. 10. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
26 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

27 Approved,