

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10077



Introduced by CIBAC Party-list Representative
HON. EDUARDO "BRO EDDIE C. VILLANUEVA"

AN ACT
DECLARING FEBRUARY 6 OF EVERY YEAR AS PHILIPPINE PERSONS
WITH DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

The Republic of the Philippines recognizes that disabled persons have the right to special care, education, and training to help them enjoy full and decent lives in dignity and achieve the greatest degree of self-reliance and social integration possible consonant to (Art. 23, Paragraph 1The U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child). States Parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance, and facilitate the child's active participation in the community.

According to data from the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines Inc. (DSAPI), more than 100,000 Filipino households have a member with Down syndrome. In the Philippines, approximately 1 in every 800 babies born with Down syndrome and every four hours, a Filipino is born with Down syndrome in the country.

Thus, persons with Down syndrome deserve the dignity and respect from everyone and need protection against abuse, violence, and public indifference. Raising children and caring persons with Down Syndrome may be tough, but when armed with the right knowledge, one will find a deep sense of fulfillment in taking care of the child. As such, for purposes of massive awareness on the condition of Persons with Down Syndrome they deserve respect and care in our society.

Traditionally, the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines Inc. (DSAPI) an institution that provides recognition, care, education, and training for persons with down syndrome has been celebrating its anniversary on 6th day of February every year since then. Thus, this bill is institutionalizing February 6 every year as "PHILIPPINE PERSONS WITH DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY"

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

HON. EDUARDO "BRO EDDIE C. VILLANUEVA"

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

SECTION 1. It is the policy of the state to provide priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women and children (Art. XIII, Section ii, Philippine Constitution); The Republic of the Philippines recognizes that disabled children have the right to special care, education and training to help them enjoy full and decent lives in dignity and achieve the greatest degree of self-reliance and social integration possible (Art. 23, Paragraph 1. The U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child);

SECTION 2. *Scientific and Medical Definition of Down Syndrome (DS):*

a). It is a genetic condition where a person is born with an extra copy of chromosome 21, causing delays in the way that a baby's body and brain develop. The presence of an extra chromosome in one's genes is known as trisomy, which is why Down Syndrome is also known as trisomy 21.

b). It is a chromosomal abnormality that results from the presence of a third copy of chromosome 21 and is the most common genetic chromosomal disorder worldwide.

There are three distinct types of Down syndrome: trisomy 21 (resulting from nondisjunction), translocation, and mosaicism:

Trisomy 21- This is characterized by a process called nondisjunction- where the two copies of chromosome 21 fail to separate during the formation of the egg or sperm. The result is that the cells formed after the egg and sperm unite have three separate copies of a chromosome instead of just two.

Translocation Down Syndrome - This happens when the extra chromosome 21, which is supposed to be a separate copy, is attached, or translocated to another chromosome. There are no distinct cognitive or medical differences between people with translocation DS and trisomy 21.

Mosaic Down Syndrome - In this case, some of the cells of the patient have three copies of chromosome 21, while other cells have the usual two. People with mosaic Down syndrome have fewer characteristics typically associated with the condition since not all cells have excess chromosome 21.

SECTION 2. *Philippines Persons with Syndrome Consciousness Month*— In 2002, former President and now House Senior Deputy Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed Proclamation 157 declaring the month of February as the National Down Syndrome Consciousness Month.

The Sixth (6th) day of February every year is hereby declared as Philippines Persons with Down Syndrome Awareness Day in upholding the dignity and respect they deserve for persons with Down Syndrome preserving public consciousness and awareness to every Filipino. Hence, it is hereby declared that February 6 of every year as “PHILIPPINE PERSONS WITH DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY.”

The implementing agency shall formulate and issue the implementing rules and regulations necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 3. *Implementing agencies* -. For this purpose, the Department of Health, the Department of Education, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, other related agencies and appropriate NGOs are enjoined to extend their utmost support and cooperation.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause*. — If any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and effective.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause*. — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.