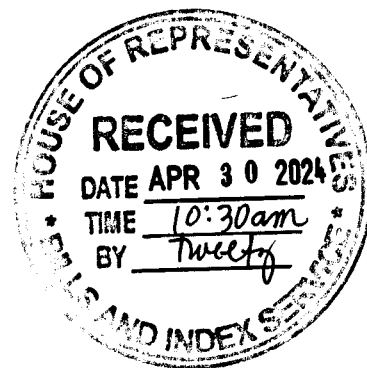




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10293**



Introduced by Representative Midy N. Cua
Lone District, Quirino

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY CENTER FOR THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED
IN THE PROVINCE OF QUIRINO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution provides, "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure prosperity and independence of the nation and free people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all." In consideration of such, this bill seeks to contribute to the support and development of the total well-being of differently abled persons and to facilitate in their integration into the mainstream of society by establishing a community shelter home in the Province of Quirino.

Differently abled persons continue to suffer from inequalities caused by unequal opportunities, discrimination, and social, economic, and political exclusion among others. The plight of differently abled persons is recognized by the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and addressing their specific needs and situation is among the targets and indicators integrated in Goal 10 (SDG 10), "Reduce inequality within and among countries". President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Romualdez Marcos Jr. has also previously recognized persons with disabilities (PWDs) as important partners in nation-building, and are thus in need of support through legislation. He recognizes the need to protect and empower PWDs through labor, finance, infrastructure, and more.

According to the National Disability Prevalence Survey of the Philippine Statistics Authority, around 12% of Filipinos age 15 and older experience severe disability, 47% experience moderate disability, while 23% experience mild disability. An increase in disability prevalence can also be observed with age as functioning declines or changes, with almost one in three (32%) of Filipinos with severe disability is a senior citizen. Additionally, only 49% of those with severe disabilities had access to employment, and only 12% have complete access to information.

A study from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) also provided that persons differently abled are among the poorest and most vulnerable, lacking access to education, social protection, health care services, employment and livelihood opportunities, as well as facing barriers in the built environment, transport and communications, and in accessing information and assistive technology. The ADB study further notes that poverty and disability are widely recognized as interrelated, with poor people more likely to become disabled due to their living conditions, and that disability is more likely to make people poor due to discrimination and lack of access.

In the province of Quirino, around 1.8% of residents were considered differently-abled, with this rate increasing since 2000. Within this population, more were males. The conditions of these residents makes it difficult for them to see, walk, hear, remember, communicate, and take care of themselves.

The establishment of a community shelter for differently abled persons will not give its residents a roof above their heads, but will provide them with access to proper education and training programs that will lead to better livelihood and employment opportunities. With the goal of ensuring their autonomy, self-sufficiency, dignity, and productivity, establishing a community shelter will aid persons differently abled as they prove that they are just as capable as persons not suffering from any disability to contribute to national growth and success.

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



MIDY N. CUA
Representative
Lone District, Quirino



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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide full
2 support to the improvement of the total well-being of disabled persons and their integration into the
3 mainstream of society. It shall adopt policies ensuring the rehabilitation, self-development and self-
4 reliance of disabled persons. It shall develop their skills and potentials to enable them to compete
5 favorably for available opportunities.

6
7 Towards this end, the State shall provide shelter homes for the protection, proper care, and
8 development of skills and potentials of differently abled persons.

9
10 **SEC. 2. Establishment of the Quirino Community Center for the Differently Abled.** - The Quirino
11 Community Center for the Differently Abled Persons is hereby established under the control and
12 supervision of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). It shall set the policies
13 and guidelines for the qualification of residents.

14
15 The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in coordination with the DSWD,
16 shall identify the location of the community center and undertake its construction.

17
18 **SEC. 3. Funding.** – The budgetary allocations needed to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby
19 authorized to be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year immediately following its
20 enactment into law.

21
22 **SEC. 4. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof,
23 which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

24
25 **SEC. 5. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
26 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

27
28 Approved,