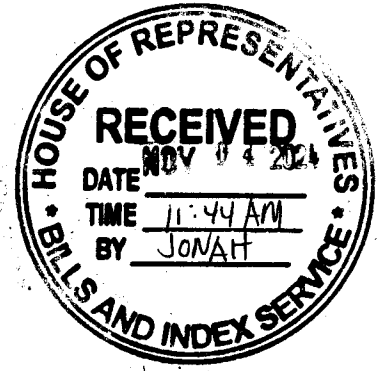


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 11003



Introduced by REP. RUWEL PETER S. GONZAGA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

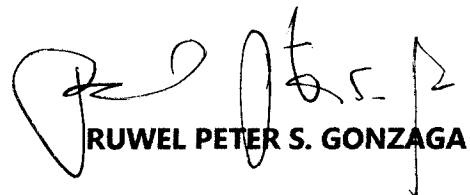
Children are among the nation's most invaluable assets, yet they remain exceptionally vulnerable to various forms of exploitation and abuse. Their susceptibility to harm highlights the critical need for comprehensive and effective protection measures. Despite existing anti-human trafficking laws and other protective frameworks, organized crime syndicates continue to exploit and abuse children with disturbing regularity. The persistence of these threats underscores the need for a proactive and unified approach to safeguard children and address the systemic issues contributing to their vulnerability.

The current situation reveals a troubling reality: while some missing children are successfully located and reunited with their families, many others remain unaccounted for. These children are at significant risk of exploitation, abuse, and even death. The existing legal frameworks, although necessary, are often reactive rather than preventative. This gap calls for a strategic initiative that not only addresses immediate recovery efforts but also focuses on prevention and systemic improvements.

This bill seeks to address these urgent issues through the establishment of the National Center for Child Protection (NCCP). The NCCP will be a central institution dedicated to Comprehensive Child Protection: The NCCP will serve as a pivotal organization for managing cases related to missing children, sexual abuse, human trafficking, and other forms of exploitation. It will provide a structured response to these critical issues, ensuring that every child is protected and that recovery efforts are timely and effective.

The establishment of the National Center for Child Protection represents a critical advancement in our efforts to safeguard children from sexual abuse, human trafficking, and all forms of exploitation. By creating a dedicated institution with a comprehensive mandate, this bill aims to enhance both the immediate and systemic responses to child vulnerability. It is a vital step toward ensuring that every child is protected, supported, and empowered to thrive in a safe environment.

Approval of this Bill is essential for reinforcing our commitment to the safety and well-being of our children.


RUWEL PETER S. GONZAGA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 11083

Introduced by REP. RUWEL PETER S. GONZAGA

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “National Center for Child Protection Act.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of State Policy. – The State recognizes the paramount importance of safeguarding children from all forms of abuse, exploitation, and neglect. The State shall:

- a) Uphold and protect the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being of children, recognizing their critical role in nation-building.
- b) Ensure comprehensive measures to protect children from sexual abuse, human trafficking, exploitation, and any form of neglect or cruelty, in accordance with national and international standards.

SECTION 3. Scope and Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act:

- a) "Child" refers to any person below eighteen (18) years of age, as defined under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- b) "Sexual abuse" refers to any form of sexual exploitation or misconduct, including but not limited to molestation, sexual assault, and forced prostitution.
- c) "Human trafficking" refers to the illegal trade or transportation of children for purposes of exploitation, including sexual exploitation, forced labor, or other forms of abuse.
- d) "Exploitation" encompasses the use of children for illicit or harmful purposes, including labor, pornography, and other forms of abuse.

SECTION 4. Establishment of the National Center for Child Protection (NCCP). – There is hereby established, under the supervision of the Department of Social Welfare

and Development (DSWD), the National Center for Child Protection (NCCP). The NCCP shall have the following powers and functions:

- a) Hotlines and Information Dissemination: Operate national hotlines to report cases of missing children, abuse, and exploitation. Disseminate relevant information, including photographs, descriptions, and biographical details, to local government units, law enforcement agencies, and the general public.
- b) Database Management: Maintain and regularly update a nationwide computerized database of missing children, abuse cases, and trafficking incidents to facilitate prompt response and recovery efforts.
- c) Coordination and Collaboration: Coordinate with government agencies, NGOs, media, and community organizations to locate and rescue missing children and to provide comprehensive support services to victims.
- d) Public Awareness and Education: Develop and implement educational programs for parents, children, and communities on the prevention of abuse, trafficking, and exploitation.
- e) Research and Data Collection: Conduct annual studies to assess the prevalence of child abuse, trafficking, and missing children, and evaluate the effectiveness of intervention strategies.
- f) Technical and Financial Assistance: Seek and utilize public and private grants to support initiatives aimed at preventing child abuse, enhancing recovery efforts, and providing support to affected families.
- g) Policy Advocacy and Development: Advocate for and contribute to the development of effective policies and legislation related to child protection and welfare.
- h) Counseling and Support Services: Provide or facilitate access to counseling and support services for children who are victims of abuse or exploitation and their families.

SECTION 5. Executive Council. – The NCCP shall be governed by an Executive Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, composed of the following members:

- a) Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as Chairperson;
- b) Secretary of Justice (DOJ);
- c) Secretary of Education (DepEd);
- d) Secretary of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- e) Chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP);
- f) Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR);
- g) Director of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);
- h) Executive Director of the National Center for Child Protection (NCCP);
- i) Executive Director of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC);

- j) Two (2) representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in child protection, appointed by the Secretary of Justice and the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development.

SECTION 6. Executive Director. – The NCCP shall be headed by an Executive Director, appointed by the Council, who shall oversee the operational and administrative functions of the Center, including the determination of its organizational structure and staffing.

SECTION 7. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be appropriated from the current funds of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Subsequent funding for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,