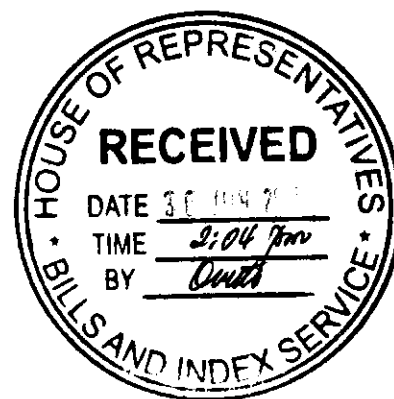


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 474



Introduced by **Representative Jaime R. Fresnedi**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize a comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention Program within the K to 12 basic education curriculum, focusing on Grades 7 to 12. It aims to address the urgent need for sustained, structured, and effective education on drug prevention among Filipino youth. Despite the mandates under Republic Act No. 9165, or the *Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002*, drug prevention education in schools remains inconsistent and fragmented. This measure offers a clear framework for embedding drug abuse prevention in the school system, ensuring that students are not only informed but are also empowered to make healthier choices.

According to the Dangerous Drugs Board's latest statistics, methamphetamine hydrochloride, or *shabu*, remains the most commonly abused substance, followed by marijuana¹. In 2022, the youngest admission for rehabilitation centers is 13, while the eldest is 72. As to educational attainment, 26.99% have attained high school level, 19.61% have reached college, and 17.44% are those who have graduated high school. Considering the age at first drug use, 41.32% belong to ages 15 to 19 years old.² These figures show us that many of those struggling with drug dependency are of school age or just beyond it. In addition, a journal published by the National Institute of Health (NIH) suggests that the vulnerability of Filipino youth to risky behaviors, including substance abuse, is rising partly because of socioeconomic hardship and social pressures.³

The failures of purely punitive approaches to the drug problem have become increasingly clear because despite the aggressive campaign waged in recent years, illegal drugs continue to infiltrate communities. This bill bridges the gaps in existing laws by complementing Republic Act No. 9165 with a proactive, educational approach that focuses on prevention rather than punishment. While RA 9165 establishes penalties for drug offenses and

¹ Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) Annual Report 2016
(https://ddb.gov.ph/images/annual_report/2016_Annual_Report_Layout.pdf)

² Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) Annual Report 2022 (<https://ddb.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2022-DDB-Annual-Report.pdf>)

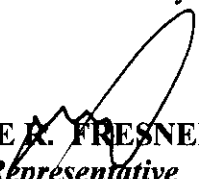
³ Predictors and Prevalence of Alcohol and Cannabis Co-use Among Filipino Adolescents: Evidence From a School-based Student Health Survey
(<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11164607/#:~:text=In%20the%20Philippines%2C%20a%202022,ages%20of%2015%20and%2019>)

mandates awareness programs, it lacks the depth and integration necessary for a sustained impact within the school curriculum. This proposed measure fills that void by equipping young learners with the knowledge and life skills to resist drugs before they fall into harm's way.

The Drug Abuse Prevention Program envisioned in this bill integrates age-appropriate content into the curriculum, fosters critical thinking, and strengthens decision-making and coping skills. Teachers will receive continuous training to deliver this education effectively, while parents and communities are encouraged to participate in reinforcing these lessons at home and in society.

This measure reaffirms the nation's duty to protect its children, not just through laws and enforcement, but by educating them early, guiding them to choose a better path, and safeguarding their future from the devastation of drug abuse.

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



JAIME R. FRESNEDI
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 47

Introduced by **Representative Jaime R. Fresnedi**

AN ACT
INCORPORATING A DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM IN SUBJECTS
FROM GRADES 7 TO 12 UNDER THE K TO 12 BASIC EDUCATION
CURRICULUM, MANDATING CAPACITY BUILDING ON DRUG ABUSE
PREVENTION FOR TEACHERS, TEACHING DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION TO
PARTNERS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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 "*Drug Abuse Prevention Program in Basic Education Act.*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to give priority to education to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. The use of illegal drugs has been one of the most pressing concerns in the country as minors and the youth are continuously being utilized in the conduct of illegal drug activities due to their tender age and vulnerability.

Hence, it is the policy of the State to protect minors and the youth from drug abuse and exploitation by providing them quality education at the early stages of their development in order to empower them to make their own informed choices by equipping them with critical and relevant information on drug abuse.

Pursuant to said policy, this Act aims to attain the following objectives:

a) Educate minors and the youth on the types of harmful and illegal drugs and their pernicious effects to one's health through the program's incorporation in subjects from Grades 7 to 12 under the K to 12 basic education curriculum of the Department of Education ("DepEd"); and

b) Provide minors and the youth personal and social skills on drug abuse prevention by discussing important matters such as the enhancement of self-esteem at the early stages of personal development, anger management the Dangerous Drugs Board ("DDB"), and relevant non-governmental organizations ("NGOs")

involved in drug demand reduction, to strengthen the implementation of the program in subjects from Grades 7 to 12 under the K to 12 basic education curriculum and formulate policies, guidelines, or rules and regulations for this purpose. Learners, school personnel, parents, drug counselors, and health workers shall likewise be consulted on the prevalence of drugs in the and conflict resolution, risk assessment and decision making, interpersonal and communication issues, and positive alternatives to drug use, among others.

SEC. 3. Incorporating a Drug Abuse Prevention Program in Subjects from Grades 7 to 12 under the K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum of the DepEd. – All public and private basic education institutions shall be required to incorporate a Drug Abuse Prevention Program in subjects from Grades 7 to 12 which are included under the K to 12 basic education curriculum of the DepEd:

- a) Grades 7 to 10 - Health;
- b) Grade 11 - Physical Education and Health; and
- c) Grade 12 - Personal Development.

The DepEd shall collaborate with the Department of Health (“DOH”), the Dangerous Drugs Board (“DDB”), and relevant non-governmental organizations (“NGOs”) involved in drug demand reduction, to strengthen the implementation of the program in subjects from Grades 7 to 12 under the K to 12 basic education curriculum and formulate policies, guidelines, or rules and regulations for this purpose.

Learners, school personnel, parents, drug counselors, and health workers shall likewise be consulted on the prevalence of drugs in the community and the personal and social context of the use of particular drugs prior to the formulation of policies, guidelines, or rules and regulations on the implementation of the program. The content of the program shall be in consonance with the standards set by the aforementioned government entities.

SEC. 4. Contents of the Drug Abuse Prevention Program. – The Drug Abuse Prevention Program, in the subject “Health” for the secondary level, particularly for Grades 7 to 10, shall discuss the general principles on drug abuse and mental and emotional health such as, but not limited to, the following:

- a) Types of harmful and illegal drugs and their pernicious effects on one’s body such as having a weak immune system, heart condition, nausea, and abdominal pain, among others;
- b) Ways that drugs can get into the body;
- c) Possible effects of the use of drugs on the health of others;
- d) Development of decision-making skills that will help learners to improve their quality of life and properly deal with negative situations such as, but not limited to, peer pressure which may lead to drug abuse;

e) Information on helping students manage anger and resolve conflicts to prevent them from using drugs;

f) Enhancement of self-esteem; and

g) Basic concepts and ideas on how to follow laws and the consequences of disobeying laws.

The Drug Abuse Prevention Program, in the subjects “Physical Education and Health” and “Personal Development” for Grades 11 and 12, respectively, shall focus on the study of the surroundings and circumstances which may easily affect learners such as, but not limited to, the following:

a) Environment of the learner and the affairs that he or she faces everyday which may prompt him or her to use and abuse illegal drugs;

b) Guidance on how to respond to circumstances which may involve high risks and low gain choices and observation on different types of attitudes, behaviors, and emotional reactions on drug abuse;

c) Learning and developing anger management, conflict resolution, risk assessment, decision-making, interpersonal, and communication skills; and

d) Further cultivation of human values, importance of community, and seeking aid from guidance counselors, adults, and authorities when dealing with problems related to drug abuse.

SEC. 5. Capacity Building and Training for Teachers on Drug Abuse Prevention. – The DepEd, in consultation with DDE, the DOH, and relevant NGOs, shall establish and provide capacity building and training courses for teachers on drug abuse prevention to assist them in the employment of appropriate learning strategies and resources. The courses shall be constantly evaluated by the DepEd, in consultation with the DDE and the DOH, to ensure their sustainability.

The DepEd shall require that all teachers continuously receive the capacity building and training courses necessary on drug abuse prevention. Attendance to these courses shall be considered as compliance with the corresponding completed hours of the required trainings of the Civil Service Commission (“CSC”) for purposes of promotion as may be applicable.

To the extent funds are made available for this purpose, the Local School Boards shall require their local public schools to make available to teachers the capacity building and training courses on drug abuse prevention provided by the DepEd. To the extent possible, these courses shall be conducted at a DepEd-approved location which is most conveniently situated near the local public school.

SEC. 6. Capacity Building and Training for Partners. – The Local Government Academy (“LGA”) of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with the DepEd, the DDB, and the DOH, shall likewise develop a basic course on drug abuse prevention for the Local School Board that shall serve as a partner in the implementation of the program for the learners. The content of the course shall include basic principles on the types

of illegal drugs, their harmful effects, and how the partners can teach and guide minors and the youth on matters related to drug abuse. The basic course shall be constantly evaluated by the DepEd, in consultation with the LGA, the DDB, and the DOH, to ensure its sustainability.

SEC. 7. *Assessment and Evaluation of the Drug Abuse Prevention Program and Other Reportorial Requirements.* – The DepEd shall conduct assessment and evaluation to properly ascertain the sustainability, significance, and impact of the program on its learners. It shall submit to both Houses of Congress and the DDB, not later than May 31 of every year, a report on all activities related to the program that were conducted during the school year and any proposed amendments to the guidelines and rules and regulations on drug abuse prevention.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against those authorized in the current appropriations of the DepEd and the DILG. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd, in consultation with the DDB, shall jointly promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to implement the provisions of this Act and issue the same within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

The IRR issued pursuant to this section shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, ordinances, administrative order, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,