



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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

House Bill No. 875



INTRODUCED BY **Rep. ZIAUR-RAHMAN ALONTO ADIONG**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a multifaceted neurodevelopmental condition that profoundly affects social interaction, communication, behavior, and sensory experiences. In the Philippines, the rising incidence of autism illuminates a stark and urgent need for comprehensive, compassionate support systems—needs that remain largely unmet due to a scarcity of specialized resources.

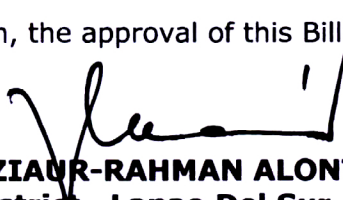
The envisioned Center for Autism seeks to rise to this challenge, offering a sanctuary of hope and empowerment for individuals on the spectrum and their families. The center will provide an array of critical services, from early intervention and precise diagnostic evaluations to personalized treatment and transformative therapies. Beyond direct care, it will extend a lifeline to families through counseling, hands-on training, and accessible education about ASD, fostering resilience and understanding in those who love and support individuals with autism.

More than a facility, the center aspires to become a beacon of advocacy and discovery—dedicated to advancing research on autism and igniting greater societal awareness. By championing inclusivity and dismantling misconceptions, it will strive to cultivate a more accepting and informed community.

Forging alliances with both local and international partners, the center will strive to bring the world's best practices and cutting-edge evidence-based approaches to the Philippines. It will nurture a dynamic environment for collaboration and professional growth, equipping teachers, therapists, doctors, and caregivers with the knowledge and skills to offer the highest standard of care.

At its heart, this proposed legislation envisions the establishment of an autism center as a powerful response to the pressing gaps in services and support. It endeavors to spark meaningful change: expanding access to vital resources, inspiring nationwide compassion and awareness, and creating a hub of research and innovation—so that every Filipino with autism, and their families, can live with dignity, opportunity, and hope.

As such, the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.


REP. ZIAUR-RAHMAN ALONTO ADIONG
1st District, Lanao Del Sur



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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CENTER FOR AUTISM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Section 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY. It is hereby declared the policy of the state to promote and protect the right of all individuals to live a full, healthy, holistic and quality life. This includes individuals who are suffering from autism or any kind of developmental disability. Therefore, the state shall promote and protect the rights of autistic individuals by providing them adequate support through easy access to health care, educational and other services.

Section 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS - For purposes of this Act, the terms below shall be constructed to mean, except where explicitly indicated or where the text clearly indicates otherwise as follows:

- a. Autism-is a developmental disability that appears during the first three years of life; the result of a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain;
- b. Disability - shall mean 1) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more psychological, physiological or anatomical function of an individual or activities of such individual; 2) a record of such an impairment; or 3) regarded as having such an impairment;
- c. Disabled Gifted - persons who demonstrate superior performance capabilities in intellectual, creative, specific academic areas, leadership, or in the arts in spite of physical, sensory or psychological disabilities;
- d. Disabled Worker- means a worker whose earning capacity is impaired by mental, physical, or sensory deficiency or injury;
- e. Handicap - refers to disadvantage for given individual, resulting from an impairment of disability that limits or prevents the function of activity, that is considered normal given the age and sex of the individual;
- f. Impairment - is any loss, diminution or aberration of psychological, physiological, or anatomical structure of function;
- g. Indigent patient- a disabled person whose level of income falls below poverty threshold;
- h. Rehabilitation - an integrated approach to physical, psychological, cultural, spiritual, educational, or vocational, measures that create conditions for individual to attain the highest possible level of functional ability; and,

- i. Special Education (SPED) - type of education specifically designed for learners with special needs who cannot profit maximally from regular education such that they require trained personnel modifications in the curricula, teaching methods, instructional materials and adaptations in facilities equipment

Section 3. CREATION FOR A CENTER FOR AUTISM - There is hereby created a Center for Autism which shall be tasked to perform the following functions:

- a. Formulate and implement an integrated and comprehensive master plan;
- b. Create a diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitation clinic;
- c. Provide vocational training programs for autistic adults;
- d. Provide free diagnosis and rehabilitation services to indigent autistic;
- e. Provide continuing training programs for teachers, therapists, and other medical professionals;
- f. Provide other services such as counseling, orientation and referral; and
- g. Increase public awareness and concern on autism by spear heading advocacy programs.

Section 4. GOVERNING BOARD COMPOSITION, TERM, AND FUNCTIONS –

There is hereby created a National Autism Board, hereby referred to as the Board, which shall be under the Office of the President. The Board shall govern the Center for Autism and shall be composed of the following:

- a. One (1) representative from the Department of Health, who shall sit as Chairperson;
- b. One (1) representative from the Department of Education who shall sit as the Vice-Chairperson;
- c. One (1) representative from the Department of Social Welfare and Development as Member;
- d. Two (2) representatives from the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons as Members;
- e. Two (2) representatives from the Autism Society of the Philippines as Members; and,
- f. Two (2) representatives from the Parents of Children and Adults with Autism as Members.

Section 5. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE . – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Section 6. REPEALING CLAUSE . – The provision of , is hereby amended. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, all other laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations and administrative regulations or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 7. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,