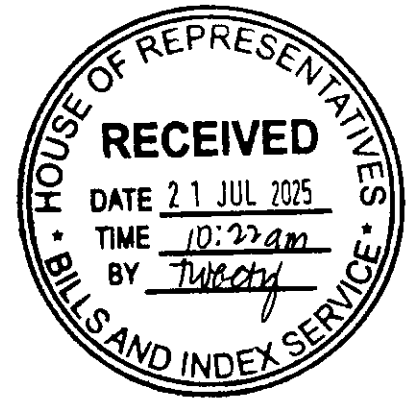


**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

**Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 2104



Introduced by Hon. Alexandria P. Gonzales

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Climate change is no longer a distant or abstract concept—it is a lived reality. Alongside its visible effects, such as stronger typhoons, high floods, extreme droughts, sea-level rise, and biodiversity loss, there emerges an invisible but growing threat: climate anxiety and eco-grief. These are psychological responses—especially among the youth, farmers, coastal communities, and indigenous peoples—to the existential threat of environmental degradation and the perceived loss of a secure future. Sudden reversals of economic conditions due to severe environment disasters bring abrupt change in people's lives.

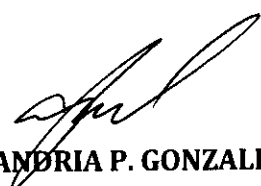
Studies conducted in the Philippines and globally reveal that many young people experience despair, sadness, helplessness, and guilt over the state of the planet. These emotional responses, if left unacknowledged and unaddressed, may lead to chronic stress, depression, and social disengagement.

However, while the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Health (DOH) have initiated programs on climate adaptation and disaster response, the psychological and emotional dimensions of climate change have not been systematically addressed.

This bill seeks to institutionalize mental health preparedness and resilience-building in the face of climate-related trauma. It mandates the development of appropriate psychosocial support services, integration of climate grief awareness in educational and community systems, and training for teachers, health workers, and LGUs to identify and support individuals dealing with eco-anxiety.

This proposed measure aligns with the Philippine Mental Health Act (RA 11036), the Climate Change Act (RA 9729), and the Universal Health Care Law (RA 11223) by recognizing the complex impact of climate change on individual well-being and national development.

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


ALEXANDRIA P. GONZALES

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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2104

Introduced by Hon. Alexandria P. Gonzales

AN ACT

**INSTITUTIONALIZING CLIMATE ANXIETY AND ECO-GRIEF PREPAREDNESS AND
RESPONSE PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES, AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

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 “Climate Anxiety and Eco-Grief Preparedness Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote holistic health and well-being, including mental and emotional health, as a fundamental human right. The State recognizes the profound psychological impact of climate change and commits to addressing climate anxiety and eco-grief as essential components of national climate adaptation, education, and mental health strategies.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

- a) Climate Anxiety refers to chronic fear of environmental doom or ecological collapse, often accompanied by feelings of helplessness or existential dread due to past trauma.
- b) Eco-Grief refers to mourning or sadness related to environmental losses, losses translate to species extinction, deforestation, or degradation of ecosystems, (which sometimes is also a source of livelihood).
- c) Preparedness Programs refer to strategies aimed at educating, equipping, and supporting individuals and communities in coping with and addressing climate-related emotional and psychological stress.

SEC. 4. *Institutional Mandate.* - The following agencies shall implement climate anxiety, preparedness programs and eco-grief counseling programs:

- a) Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) – shall integrate modules on climate mental health in the curriculum, promote school-based coping strategies, and provide teacher training.
- b) Department of Health (DOH) – shall include climate grief in public mental health strategies and offer community-based counseling and psychosocial services.

- c) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – shall work with mental health professionals to ensure that environmental education includes emotional resilience components.
- d) Local Government Units (LGUs) – shall designate climate mental health focal persons and provide localized support services.

SEC. 5. *Capacity Building.* - The Civil Service Commission (CSC), DepEd, CHED, and DOH shall jointly conduct training for educators, guidance counselors, health professionals, and social workers on recognizing and responding to climate-related emotional distress.

SEC. 6. *Community and Youth Engagement.* - Programs shall promote youth-led climate initiatives, community dialogues, and art-based or nature-based healing practices to process climate grief and build ecological hope.

SEC. 7. *Funding.* - The amount necessary for the initial implementation shall be charged to the current appropriations of the implementing agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, DepEd, CHED, and DENR, in consultation with mental health experts, educators, and climate scientists, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,