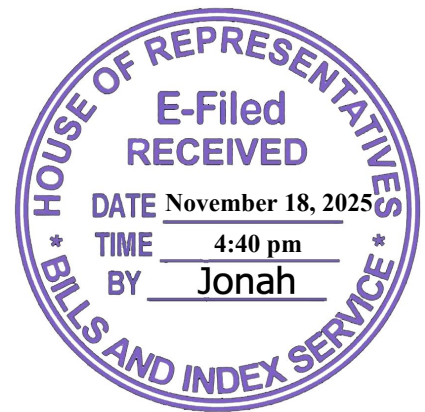




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6159



Introduced by Representative Giselle Mary L. Maceda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Schools are often regarded as a second home—a nurturing space where children are guided toward intellectual, emotional, and social growth. Within its premises, learners must feel safe, supported, and respected, for education can only truly flourish in an environment free from fear, discrimination, and violence. The individual growth of one student should never come at the expense of another's hurt and suffering.

However, the pervasive and deeply troubling issue of bullying continues to threaten not only the well-being of individual students but also the integrity of the learning environment of affected institutions.

The Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II), cited the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2019 in declaring that approximately 65% of Filipino students reported experiencing some form of bullying at least a few times each month, while 40% stated that they were bullied frequently, or at least once a week.

Further, the PISA 2022 results revealed that the incidence of bullying in the Philippines remains significantly higher than global averages. The study found that 43% of Filipino girls and 53% of Filipino boys reported being victims of bullying—more than twice the OECD average of 20% for girls and 21% for boys. This pattern reflects a continuing and deeply concerning trend, consistent with PISA 2018, where the Philippines recorded the highest rate of bullying among all participating countries and territories.

Based on data presented during the Executive Committee (Execom) meeting of the Department of Education (DepEd), the DepEd National Capital Region recorded 2,500 cases of bullying in School Year 2024-2025, up from 2,268 in the previous year.

From 24 Nov 2022 to 11 Jan 2024, the Department of Education (Philippines) (DepEd) Learners TeleSafe Helpline recorded 178 cases of bullying: 83 physical, 27 cyberbullying, 28 verbal.

In presenting the study titled “School Bullying Contributes to Lower PISA Achievement among Filipino Students: Who Gets Bullied? Why Does It Matter?”, Dr. Michael Abrigo, lead author and Senior Research Fellow at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), emphasized that “bullying exposure explains around 0.05 standard deviation of the achievement gap between proficient and non-proficient students, translating to a projected PHP10-20 billion annual loss to the economy”.

While recognition is due to efforts to solve this issue, namely the enactment and proposals for further amendment of Republic Act No. 10627 or the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013, legislation alone cannot eradicate bullying. It requires collective vigilance, empathy, and accountability from all members of the educational community – students, teachers, parents, and administrators alike.

The observance of National Bullying Awareness and Prevention Month every September reinforces this shared duty. It serves as a national call to action – to raise awareness, promote compassion and inclusivity, and uphold the right of every child to learn without fear or intimidation. This annual observance underscores that education is not merely about academic achievement but also about character formation and mutual respect.

By strengthening awareness and advocacy, we reaffirm that no form of violence or cruelty has a place in our schools, and that every student deserves a safe space to learn, grow, and thrive.

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



REP. GISELLE MARY L. MACEDA
4th District, Manila City



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AN ACT
DECLARING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER OF EACH YEAR AS THE
NATIONAL BULLYING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “**NATIONAL BULLYING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH ACT**”.

SECTION 2. The month of September of each year is hereby declared the “National Bullying Awareness and Prevention Month” to raise public awareness about bullying prevention and the importance of protecting children and youth from abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other harmful conditions, with the goal of promoting safe environments and ensuring access to quality education for all.

SECTION 3. In observance of the “National Bullying Awareness and Prevention Month,” an annual program of activities shall be prepared and implemented by the Department of Education (DepEd), in collaboration with the National Youth Commission (NYC) and the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC). The DepEd, NYC, and CWC are authorized to request assistance from other government departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, or instrumentalities, including government-owned or -controlled corporations, as necessary to effectively carry out the objectives of this Act.

The DepEd shall oversee awareness-raising activities on bullying prevention, as well as the prevention of other forms of abuse, cruelty, and exploitation against children, in all public and private elementary and high schools nationwide.

SECTION 4. The Philippine Information Agency (PIA) shall, in collaboration with the DepEd, NYC, and CWC, ensure the effective dissemination of information regarding this Act.

SECTION 5. All local government units, private organizations, civil society groups, non-governmental organizations, and people's organizations are encouraged to observe the "National Bullying Awareness and Prevention Month" through simple ceremonies and actively participate in related activities.

SECTION 6. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd shall, in consultation with the NYC, CWC, PIA, and other concerned agencies, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,