

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 8256



Introduced by Representative Timothy Joseph Cayton

**"AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11861,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SOLO PARENTS WELFARE
ACT," BY EXPANDING CATEGORIES OF SOLO PARENTS AND ENHANCING
ADDITIONAL BENEFITS THEREUNDER"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 11861, otherwise known as the "Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act," significantly strengthened the State's commitment to recognizing and supporting solo parents across the country. It acknowledged that solo parenthood often arises from circumstances beyond one's control and that government intervention is necessary to promote the welfare of solo parent families.

However, despite these advancements, certain provisions require clarification and strengthening to ensure equitable access to benefits and to address practical gaps in implementation.

This Act refines the definition of specific categories of solo parents to ensure that the law accurately reflects lived realities. In particular, it clarifies that physical or mental incapacity of a spouse must be substantial enough to prevent the proper execution of parental authority. This ensures that eligibility is grounded not merely in diagnosis but in functional incapacity affecting child-rearing responsibilities.

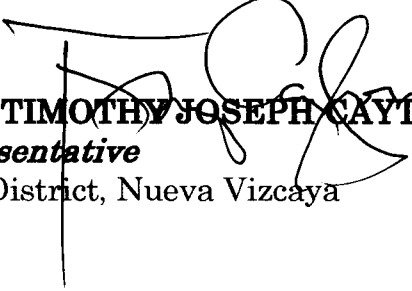
This Act also strengthens protections for grandparents who assume sole parental responsibility over their grandchildren, whether married or not, and ensures that senior citizens and persons with disabilities who qualify as solo parents are not deprived of benefits granted under other social protection laws. It affirms that qualifying senior citizens and PWD solo parents are entitled to benefits under this Act in addition to those granted under Republic Act No. 9257, Republic Act No. 7277, and Republic Act No. 10754. This prevents unintended forfeiture and promotes inclusive social protection.

This Act enhances the additional benefits granted under Section 15 of the law. It increases the monthly cash subsidy to One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (₱1,500.00) for eligible low-income solo parents, strengthens housing-related support, and clarifies the parameters for tax-exempt discounts and healthcare coverage. These amendments aim to provide more meaningful economic relief amid rising costs of living, particularly for solo parents who shoulder the full burden of caregiving and financial support.

By refining eligibility standards and strengthening benefits, this Act reinforces the State's constitutional duty to protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It recognizes that solo parents, while resilient and capable, often face compounded financial and social pressures that require sustained and responsive government support.

This proposed amendment fortifies and modernizes an existing framework to ensure that assistance remains responsive, inclusive, and economically relevant.

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



HON. TIMOTHY JOSEPH CAYTON
Representative
Lone District, Nueva Vizcaya

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

SECTION 1. Title.— This Act shall be known as the ***“Solo Parent Empowerment
and Inclusion Act.”***

SEC. 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11861 is hereby amended to read as
follows:

“SEC. 4. Categories of Solo Parent. – A solo parent refers to any
individual who falls under any of the following categories:

x x x

(a) A parent who provides sole parental care and support of the child or
children due to –

x x x

(4) Physical or mental incapacity of the spouse as certified by a
public or private medical practitioner; Provided, That the
incapacity is substantial enough to prevent the proper execution
of parental authority;

x x x

(e) Any relative within the fourth (4th) civil degree of consanguinity or
affinity of the parent or legal guardian who assumes parental care and
support of the child or children as a result of the death, abandonment,
disappearance, or absence of the parents or solo parent for at least six
(6) months: Provided, That in cases of grandparents, whether married

or not, who are senior citizens and who have sole parental care and support over their grandchildren who are unmarried, or unemployed and twenty-two (22) years old or below, or those twenty-two (22) years old or over but who are unable to fully take care of or protect themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation, or discrimination due to a physical or mental disability or condition, they shall be entitled to the benefits of this Act in addition to the benefits granted to them under Republic Act No. 9257, otherwise known as the 'Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003'; Provided, Further, That Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) who qualify as solo parents shall likewise be entitled to the benefits of this Act in addition to the benefits granted to them under Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities," and Republic Act No. 10754;

x x x

SEC. 3. Section 15 of Republic Act No. 8972, as amended by Section 12 of Republic Act No. 11861, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 15. Additional Benefits. – A solo parent shall be entitled to the following additional benefits:

(a) Means, pension, and subsidy-tested monthly cash subsidy of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (₱1,500.00) per month per solo parent earning minimum wage or below, to be allocated by the concerned city or municipal government in accordance with Section 17(b)(2)(iv) of the Local Government Code: Provided, That for fifth (5th) class municipalities and lower, as well as the five hundred (500) municipalities with the highest poverty incidence based on the latest municipal-level small area poverty estimates, cash subsidy allocations may be sourced from the Gender and Development (GAD) budget, and the amount of subsidy per recipient may be determined based on the available GAD allocation: Provided, Further, That the solo parent under this section is not a recipient of any other cash assistance or subsidy from other government programs: Provided, Finally, That a beneficiary who is also a senior citizen or a person with disability (PWD) may continue receiving senior citizen or PWD benefits without forfeiting the benefits under this Act;

(b) A twenty percent (20%) discount and exemption from the value-added tax (VAT) on baby's milk, food and micronutrient supplements, sanitary diapers, duly prescribed medicines, vaccines, and other medical supplements purchased from the birth of the child or children until six (6) years of age, for a solo parent earning less than Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱250,000.00) annually, subject to adjustments

consistent with the exempt taxable income provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), as amended by Republic Act No. 10963, otherwise known as the “Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law”: Provided, That nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to violate the provisions of Republic Act No. 10028, otherwise known as the “Expanded Breastfeeding Promotion Act of 2009”;

x x x

(e) Solo parents whose monthly income falls below the poverty threshold as defined by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shall be entitled to:

- (1) Prioritization and allocation in government low-cost housing projects with liberal terms of payment on government low-cost housing projects in accordance with housing loan provisions;
- (2) Access to housing loan assistance programs with reduced interest rates and flexible payment terms, subject to eligibility and guidelines prescribed by the concerned housing agencies; and
- (3) A direct monthly rental or housing subsidy not exceeding One Thousand Pesos (₱1,000.00) per month for a maximum period of twelve (12) months, renewable subject to demonstrated need and availability of funds.

To avail of the additional benefits under this Section, the solo parent shall present a valid Solo Parent Identification Card (SPIC): Provided, That in availing of the benefits under paragraph (b) of this Section, the solo parent booklet shall likewise be presented.”

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*— Relevant government agencies, in coordination with other relevant stakeholders, experts, and other government instrumentalities, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) day.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision is declared unconstitutional, the rest shall remain effective.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* — Inconsistent laws, orders, and rules are repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect 15 days after its publication in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,