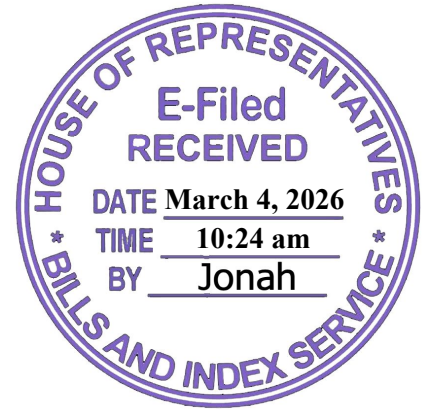


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8269**



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

**“AN ACT
DECLARING FEBRUARY 6 OF EVERY YEAR AS PHILIPPINE
PERSONS
WITH DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY”**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State prioritizes the welfare of vulnerable sectors, including persons with disabilities, as enshrined in Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution. It reaffirms its commitment to protect and promote the rights and dignity of all individuals, particularly those who face discrimination and social barriers.

People with Down syndrome continue to encounter stigma, limited opportunities, and misconceptions about their abilities. Raising public awareness is essential to promote understanding, eliminate discrimination, and foster a more inclusive society. Through proper education and advocacy, communities can better appreciate the potential, talents, and contributions of individuals with Down syndrome.

While Proclamation No. 157 already declares February as National Down Syndrome Consciousness Month, there remains a need to institutionalize a specific day dedicated to strengthening advocacy efforts and reinforcing inclusivity nationwide.

This bill seeks to declare February 6 of every year as the “National Day of Awareness for Persons with Down Syndrome” to enhance public understanding,

promote equal opportunities, and encourage respect for diversity in schools, workplaces, and communities.

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



REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

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House of Representatives
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House Bill No. 8269

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**“AN ACT
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WITH DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY”**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the **“National Day of Awareness for Persons with Down Syndrome Act”**.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to prioritize the welfare of the underprivileged, the sick, the elderly, persons with disabilities, women, and children, as enshrined in Article XIII, Section 11 of the Philippine Constitution. Additionally, the Republic of the Philippines reaffirms its commitment to the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of The Child, which recognizes the right of children with disabilities to special care, education, and training to help them achieve dignified and self-reliant lives while fostering their social integration.

The State acknowledges the importance of raising awareness about Down syndrome to eliminate societal barriers, promote inclusivity, and foster a supportive environment for individuals with Down syndrome. To this end, the State shall take appropriate measures to

13 uphold their rights to equal opportunities and protection from discrimination, harassment, and violence.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – February 6 of every year is hereby declared as the “National Day of Awareness for Persons with Down Syndrome”. This annual observance aims to:

1. Enhance public understanding of Down syndrome, including its causes, challenges, and the potential of individuals with the condition;
2. Promote the rights, dignity, and well-being of persons with Down syndrome; and
3. Encourage inclusivity and respect for diversity within communities, schools, workplaces, and other sectors of society.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Health shall, in collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and other relevant government agencies and non-governmental organizations, lead the implementation of programs and activities in observance of the “National Day of Awareness for Persons with Down Syndrome”.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, ordinances, other issuances or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are deemed repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,