

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

20th Congress
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 10730



Introduced by: **REP. MARK CHOLO I. VIOLAGO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The alarming rise of violence in schools involving minors compels urgent legislative action. Recent incidents—the tragic shooting in Tacloban City that claimed the lives of three students, the knife attack in Cavite that injured several pupils, and the confiscation of weapons from minors in Cagayan—demonstrate that children’s access to harmful products and realistic toy weapons poses a grave threat to their safety and to the peace of our learning institutions.

The **1987 Constitution** provides the foundation for this measure. **Article II, Section 13** declares that “*The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being.*” **Article XV, Section 3(2)** further mandates the State to defend the right of children to assistance, including proper care and protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development.

This bill builds upon existing statutes:

- Republic Act No. 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act), which safeguards children from abuse and exploitation.
- Republic Act No. 10627 (Anti-Bullying Act of 2013), which protects children from violence and intimidation in schools.
- Republic Act No. 11934 (SIM Card Registration Act), which ensures accountability in online transactions, relevant to age-sensitive purchases.
- Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code), which empowers LGUs to enact ordinances and implement community-level child protection programs.

Psychological studies reinforce the urgency of this measure. A controlled study in China found that children exposed to toy weapons exhibited higher aggressive cognition and behavior, supporting the General Aggression Model which explains how violent stimuli prime

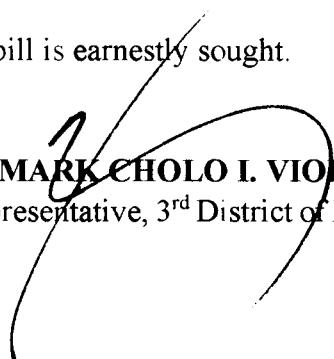
hostile thoughts. School-based play therapists have likewise warned that aggressive toys risk normalizing violence in classrooms. While longitudinal studies in the United States suggest toy weapons alone may not predict criminality, they acknowledge the short-term risks of aggression—risks that are unacceptable in our schools.

This bill therefore seeks to:

- Prohibit the sale of harmful products and realistic toy weapons to minors;
- Mandate school awareness programs to instill values of peace, responsibility, and respect for life;
- Empower Local Government Units (LGUs) to lead community campaigns, enforce prohibitions, and sustain awareness drives;
- Require age-verification mechanisms in both physical and online transactions, consistent with the SIM Card Registration Act.

This is not merely about banning toy guns or knives. It is about fulfilling our constitutional duty to protect the youth, aligning with existing child protection laws, and responding to the realities of modern commerce and psychology. By passing this measure, we affirm that violence has no place in our schools and communities, and that our children deserve nothing less than a safe environment where learning and peace prevail.

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



MARK CHOLO I. VIOLAGO
Representative, 3rd District of Bulacan

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House Bill No. **10730**

Introduced by: **REP. MARK CHOLO I. VIOLAGO**

AN ACT PROVIDING MEASURES TO PREVENT MINORS FROM PURCHASING PRODUCTS THAT ARE HARMFUL OR MAY INCITE VIOLENCE, INCLUDING REALISTIC TOY WEAPONS, MANDATING SCHOOL AWARENESS PROGRAMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “*Child Protection Against Harmful Products and School Awareness Act of 2026.*”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy.

It is the policy of the State to:

1. Protect children from harmful products that may endanger their safety and well-being.
2. Promote awareness and education in schools to prevent violence and foster a culture of peace.
3. Uphold the rights of children under Article XV of the 1987 Constitution, RA 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act), and RA 10627 (Anti-Bullying Act of 2013).
4. Strengthen regulation of sales and online transactions involving minors, consistent with the SIM Card Registration Act (RA 11934).

Section 3. Prohibited Acts.

No minor shall be allowed to purchase, possess, or be sold:

- Firearms, ammunition, and explosives.
- Bladed weapons such as knives, daggers, and similar instruments.
- Toy guns and replicas that closely resemble real firearms.
- Other harmful products as determined by the DTI and DSWD

Section 4. Duties of Sellers and Retailers.

- Require proof of age before selling restricted products.
- Online platforms must integrate age-verification mechanisms linked to SIM card registration and government-issued IDs.
- Display visible notices prohibiting the sale of harmful products to minors.

Section 5. Role of Government Agencies

1. DSWD: Conduct awareness campaigns on child protection.
2. DICT: Ensure online platforms comply with age-verification systems
3. PNP: Enforce prohibitions and conduct inspections.
4. DepEd: Integrate awareness programs in schools.
5. DTI: Issue implementing rules and monitor compliance.

Section 6. School Awareness Programs

To strengthen prevention, the Department of Education (DepEd) shall:

1. Develop and implement school-based awareness programs on the dangers of harmful products and toy weapons.
2. Integrate modules on peace education, conflict resolution, and responsible behavior into the curriculum.
3. Conduct annual seminars and workshops for students, parents, and teachers on child safety and violence prevention.

4. Partner with local government units (LGUs), NGOs, and parent-teacher associations (PTAs) to sustain community-based awareness campaigns.
5. Establish peer support groups and counseling services to address behavioral concerns linked to exposure to harmful products.

Section 7. LGU Partnership Provisions

Establish Barangay Child Protection Councils to monitor compliance with this Act.

1. Conduct community awareness drives in coordination with schools, PTAs, and NGOs.
2. Pass local ordinances reinforcing prohibitions on the sale of harmful products to minors.
3. Allocate funds for training, seminars, and enforcement activities related to child protection.
4. Collaborate with the PNP, DepEd, and DSWD in reporting violations and conducting preventive programs.
5. Maintain community hotlines for reporting incidents of minors accessing harmful products.

Section 8. Penalties.

Violators shall be subject to fines, suspension or revocation of business permits, and criminal liability under RA 7610 if harm results.

Section 9. Exemptions.

This Act shall not apply to legitimate educational, cultural, or theatrical use of replicas, provided clearance is obtained from the NCCA.

Section 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Within ninety (90) days, the DTI, DSWD, DICT, and DepEd shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations.

Section 11. Separability Clause.

If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 12. Repealing Clause.

All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 13. Effectivity

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

Approved,