

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10917



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*Introduced by Representative ELMER V. CATULPOS  
(I-Tahanan Party-List)*

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Alas-kuwatro y medya ng madaling-araw. Sa isang inuupahang kuwarto sa General Santos, itinutukod ni Nanay Karen ang kanyang cellphone sa ibabaw ng aparador, nakaharap ang kamera sa kuna. Asul ang liwanag ng screen sa dilim. Isang bote ng gatas, mainit-init pa, ang inilapag niya sa gilid ng unan ng kanyang dalawang-taong-gulang na anak. Sinuot niya ang helmet, hinigpitan ang sinturon ng delivery bag, at ikinandado ang pinto mula sa labas. Ang lagitik ng padlock ang pinakamalakas na tunog na maririnig niya buong araw. Sa susunod na sampung oras, makikita niya ang kanyang anak sa isang four-inch na screen, sa pagitan ng mga booking, habang umaasa siyang tulog pa ito pagsapit ng tanghali.

Walang magulang ang dapat pumili sa pagitan ng pagkain sa hapag at kaligtasan ng anak. Yet this is the choice that thousands of Filipino solo parents make every working day. When accounts like these surface in the news and on social media — the rider, the market vendor, the laundrywoman who leaves a very young child with a feeding bottle within reach and a camera pointed at the room — the public reaction is invariably sympathy, not condemnation. That instinct is correct. What these accounts reveal is not parental failure. They reveal a gap in the law.

Here is what few of the parents in those stories know: the law has already promised them a child minding center — twice. Republic Act No. 8972 made the promise in 2000. Republic Act No. 11861, the Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act, renewed it in 2022. But the promise was written in the one word that promises nothing: agencies and employers "may" establish such centers. And it was tied to the one thing the poorest solo parents do not have — an employer. Section 3(a) of the law defines a child minding center as a facility "provided by the employer" for a "solo parent employee." The delivery rider engaged as an independent contractor, the fish port porter, the tricycle driver, the public market vendor, the home-based online seller — the law, as written, does not contemplate them at all. Yet the informal economy is where the majority of poor Filipino solo parents actually earn. The same tether runs through the rest of the Act: parental leave under Section 8, protection from work discrimination and telecommuting priority under Section 7 — all presuppose an employer. For Nanay Karen, none of these provisions exist in any practical sense.

The numbers confirm what the stories show. As of February 2026, per the Department of Social Welfare and Development's Protective Services Bureau, only 260,934 solo parents are registered nationwide, and only 291 local government units are actually providing the monthly cash subsidy under Section 15(a) — fewer than one in five. Against the DSWD's own working estimate of some fourteen to fifteen million solo parents, registration coverage is negligible. Meanwhile, Republic Act No. 12199, the Early Childhood Care and Development Systems Act of 2025, mandates a Child Development Center in every barangay — but defines it as a facility for children below five (5) years of age cared for "during part of the day." In practice, barangay centers serve three- to four-year-olds for two to four hours in the morning: early education facilities, not care for the length of a working shift. Children below three, including infants, fall outside center-based provision entirely, and studies by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies with the Second Congressional Commission on Education have found that roughly eleven percent (11%) of barangays have no child development center at all. Our own Supreme Court, in *Ditiangkin et al v. Lazada E-Services Philippines, Inc.*, G.R. No. 246892, 21 September 2022, has recognized platform work for what it is: continuous, economically dependent labor — performed at exactly the non-standard hours when no child care facility in this country is open.

This Representation begins with gratitude, because the foundation is real. In his very first State of the Nation Address, the President said it plainly: "Hindi din natin nalilimutan ang mga solo parents at mga nanay na nahiwalay ng kanilang mga mister dahil sa karahasan." His administration has kept faith with that sentence: the implementation of Republic Act No. 11861 has proceeded through nationwide DSWD registration caravans under the banner "Solo Parent na Rehistrado, sa Gobyerno Tiyak na Suportado!", a unified solo parent identification system is being completed, and the enactment of Republic Act No. 12199 placed early childhood development in every barangay on the statute books. One piece remains — the piece this measure supplies. The centers our laws built close before the working day ends, do not receive the youngest children, and still cannot be claimed by the parent who has no employer. This bill does not replace what has been built. It keeps the promise those laws began, for the parents they have not yet reached.

No person in this story is at fault. The barangay child development worker is not absent — she was never funded for a twelfth hour, and this bill pays her honorarium when she serves one. The employer is not heartless — the law never offered a shared or accredited path to comply, and this bill creates three. The platform is not the villain — it is asked here to contribute to the care of the children of the workers whose labor it profits from, with a tax deduction for doing so and a strict prohibition against passing the cost to its riders. And the solo parent is least of all at fault. The fault lies in a system with a hole in it: a permissive verb, an employer tether, and a part-day design. This bill closes all three.

The urgency is a countdown, not a villain. Every month this gap stands, more dawn shifts begin with the click of a padlock. A child is an infant only once; the months a toddler spends alone behind a locked door are not refunded when a center finally opens. And for the parent suddenly widowed or abandoned, the present seven-working-day identification card —

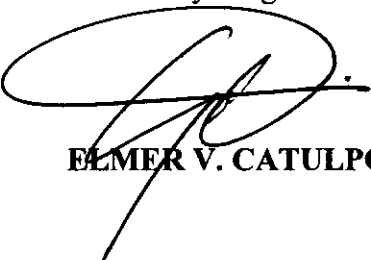
counted only after complete documents that grief has no time to assemble — arrives after the crisis, when the need was on day one.

The whole architecture of this measure stands on one sentence: ang hanapbuhay ng magulang at ang kaligtasan ng anak ay hindi magkatunggaling interes, kundi iisang obligasyon ng Estado. Specifically, this bill: (1) converts "may" into "shall" — making workplace child minding centers mandatory, on a phased basis, for the large national government agencies and private employers already described in the existing rules, with shared-facility and accredited-slot options so compliance is practical; (2) establishes Community Child Minding Centers (CCMCs) in every city and municipality, open not less than twelve (12) hours daily and on early-morning, evening, and weekend shifts where local livelihoods require, serving children from six (6) months old, with first priority for solo parents in the informal and platform-based economy; (3) institutionalizes the Kalinga sa Kapitbahay network of trained, screened, and supervised neighborhood family care providers as the delivery mode for the smallest municipalities and geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas; (4) requires large digital labor platforms to contribute to a Solo Parent Child Care Support Fund, with a tax deduction and an express prohibition against passing the cost to workers; (5) creates a twelve-month Solo Parent Transition Assistance package the moment sole parenthood arises — including a provisional identification card within three (3) working days on the strength of a barangay certification and sworn affidavit; (6) corrects the documentary trap facing surviving common-law partners and extends card validity to three (3) years where the factual basis cannot change; and (7) declares that leaving a child in a care arrangement because a solo parent had to work is not, by itself, neglect — it is a signal for the State to help, without limiting intervention in any case of actual abuse or serious risk.

In candor, this Representation discloses: the author is the founder of enterprises employing more than one thousand (1,000) workers nationwide. Under this bill, those enterprises fall squarely within the mandatory workplace child minding coverage. The author therefore writes this measure as an employer legislating a duty that binds his own payroll first — and offers that position as testimony from behind the counter that the duty is bearable, and overdue.

Hindi pa ito batas; kapag naipasa, ito ang ipinapangako nito sa bawat magulang na nagiisang bumubuhay ng anak: kung buong araw silang kumakayod, dapat buong araw ding bukas ang pintuan ng kalinga.

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



**ELMER V. CATULPOS**

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
*Second Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 10917**

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*Introduced by Representative ELMER V. CATULPOS*

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**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING ACCESSIBLE CHILD MINDING AND COMMUNITY CHILD CARE SERVICES FOR SOLO PARENTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE ENGAGED IN INFORMAL AND PLATFORM-BASED WORK, PROVIDING TRANSITION ASSISTANCE UPON THE LOSS OF A SPOUSE OR CO-PARENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11861, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SOLO PARENTS WELFARE ACT", APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, 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 "Kalinga sa Anak Act" or the "Solo Parents' Child Care Access Act."

**SECTION. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to defend the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and to provide them special protection from all forms of neglect, and to support the natural and primary right and duty of solo parents in rearing their children.

Towards this end, the State declares that the ability of a solo parent to earn a living and the safety of that solo parent's child are not competing interests but a single obligation of the State. Accordingly, the State shall ensure that accessible, safe, and adequately supervised child care is available to solo parents during the actual hours they work, regardless of whether they are employed, self-employed, engaged in informal work, or engaged through a digital labor platform, and shall extend immediate assistance to a parent at the moment sole parental responsibility arises.

**SECTION. 3. *Amendment of Section 3 (Definition of Terms).*** – Section 3 of Republic Act No. 8972, as amended by Republic Act No. 11861, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

(a) **Child minding center** refers to a facility or area, whether established within the workplace by an employer or established by a local government unit or accredited organization in a location accessible to the solo parent's place of work or residence, where the children of a solo parent aged seven (7) years old and below are habitually received for purposes of care and supervision during working hours;

x x x

(G) **Community Child Minding Center (CCMC)** refers to a child minding center established and operated by a city or municipality under Section 1-A of this Act which is open to children of solo parents regardless of the employment status of the parent;

(H) **Extended and Non-Standard Care Hours** refer to operating hours that cover the actual working hours of the solo parents served by the facility, including early morning evening, overnight, weekend, and market-day operations, as determined through the local livelihood and care-needs mapping required under this Act;

(I) **Solo Parent in the informal economy** refers to a solo parent who is self-employed, own-account, day-wage, seasonal, or home-based, including but not limited to vendors, fisherfolk, farm and fish port workers, porters, transport drivers and operators, construction workers laundry and domestic workers, and micro-entrepreneurs, whether or not registered with any government agency;

(J) **Platform-based solo parent worker** refers to a solo parent who obtains work or income through a digital labor platform, including delivery, courier, ride hailing, errand, and online service platforms, regardless of how the engagement is designated in any contract or terms of service, and without prejudice to any determination of employment under existing law and jurisprudence; and

(K) **Accredited neighborhood family care provider** refers to an individual accredited, trained, screened, and supervised under Section 10-B of this Act who provides child care in a home-based setting within the community.

(L) **Digital Labor Platform** refers to a digital technology-based platform that facilitates the production, trade, or commercial exchange of digital content, digital products, or other goods and services arising from digital transactions. It includes web-based and online platforms through which work is outsourced through an open call to geographically dispersed individuals, and location-based online applications through which work is allocated to individuals in a specific geographical area. The term includes the platform operator and its digital interface, application, or system through which work opportunities are advertised, matched, allocated, monitored, or paid, but does not, by itself, determine the employment status of any worker or the legal relationship between the platform, the worker, the client, and any intermediary."

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**SECTION. 4. Amendment of Section 10 (Child Minding Centers).** – Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8972, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

**"SECTION 10. Child Minding Centers.** – The DOLE and the CSC shall promote and encourage the establishment of appropriate child minding centers within the workplace, or in accessible locations to the workplace or residence of the solo parent.

National Government Agencies with more than three hundred (300) employees, including government-owned and controlled corporations, and private employers with two hundred (200) or more employees, shall establish and maintain a child minding center within the workplace or in a location accessible to their employees: Provided, that compliance shall be phased in over three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act in accordance with guidelines issued by the DOLE and the CSC: Provided further, that two (2) or more employers within the same building, economic zone, industrial estate, or business district may jointly establish and

maintain a shared facility in compliance with this Section. Provided finally, that a covered employer may, in lieu of establishing its own facility, enter into an accredited arrangement with a community child minding center or an accredited neighborhood family care provider and shoulder the cost of the slots of its employees. Such centers shall be available free of charge to employees, with priority given to solo parents

**SECTION 5. *New Section 10-A.*** – A new Section 10-A is hereby inserted in Republic Act No. 8972, as amended, to read as follows:

**"SECTION 10-A. *Community Child Minding Centers.*** – Every city and municipality shall establish, operate, and maintain at least one (1) Community Child Minding Center (CCMC). Highly urbanized cities and first- to third-class municipalities shall establish additional centers at the rate of at least one (1) for every congressional district or for every cluster of barangays as may be determined under the implementing rules, and shall take into consideration the following factors:

(a) **SITING.** – CCMCs shall be located in proximity to public markets, fish landing and port areas, transport terminals, economic zones, business process outsourcing districts, resettlement sites, and other high-density workforce areas identified through the local livelihood and care-needs mapping conducted by the local social welfare and development office in coordination with the Solo Parent Office or Solo Parent Division.

(b) **HOURS.** – A CCMC shall operate for not less than twelve (12) hours daily. Where the local livelihood and care-needs mapping establishes demand, the local government unit shall provide at least one (1) additional shift covering early-morning, evening, overnight, weekend, or market-day hours.

(c) **COVERAGE AND RATIOS.** – A CCMC shall receive children from six (6) months to below six (6) years of age. The maximum child-to-caregiver ratios shall be one (1) caregiver to three (3) children aged six (6) to twelve (12) months; one (1) caregiver to four (4) children aged thirteen (13) to twenty-four (24) months; and one (1) caregiver to six (6) children aged twenty-five (25) months and above. The foregoing ratios shall be minimum safety standards and may be made more protective by the DSWD, the Department of Health, the ECCD Council, or the National Nutrition Council through duly issued standards or implementing rules. They shall not be construed to replace requirements for a center supervisor, reliever personnel, child development professional, health personnel, or other personnel required by law or regulation. The implementing rules shall prescribe the manner of computing ratios where children of different age groups are cared for in the same room or shift.

(d) **PRIORITY OF ADMISSION.** – Slots shall be allocated in the following order: first, solo parents in the informal economy and platform-based solo parent workers; second, solo parents earning the minimum wage or below; third, all other solo parents; and fourth, other working parents, subject to available slots.

(e) **FEES.** – Services shall be free of charge to solo parents whose income falls at or below the regional poverty threshold as determined by the Philippine Statistics Authority, and to all solo parents in the informal economy and platform-based solo parent workers holding a valid Solo Parent Identification Card. Other qualified users may be charged a socialized fee pursuant to a schedule approved by the local government unit after public consultation and in accordance with the implementing rules. No other fee, donation, contribution, or other charge shall be collected unless authorized under the approved schedule.

All collections shall be receipted, separately accounted for, and used exclusively for the operation, maintenance, staffing, health, nutrition, safety, and safeguarding requirements of the Community Child Minding Center. Collections shall not be used to reduce or replace

appropriations or funds required for Child Development Centers or other ECCD programs under Republic Act No. 12199.

(f) **RELATION TO EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.** – A CCMC may be co-located with, and may share facilities with, a Child Development Center established under Republic Act No. 12199: Provided, That CCMC operations shall be in addition to, and shall in no case displace, reduce, or be funded at the expense of, the early childhood care and development programs, personnel, or service hours required under said Act: Provided, further, That child development workers and child development teachers assigned to extended or non-standard care hours shall receive an additional honorarium and shall not be required to render service beyond the hours prescribed by civil service and labor standards. The implementing rules shall prescribe the conditions for shared facilities, including space allocation, sanitation, safety, records management, emergency procedures, and accountability for equipment and funds.

(g) **STANDARDS.** – The DSWD, as the lead agency for the implementation of this Section, shall, in coordination with the Department of Health, the ECCD Council, the National Nutrition Council, the DILG, and other concerned agencies, prescribe minimum national standards for Community Child Minding Centers. The standards shall include, at a minimum:

- (1) Age-appropriate and adequately ventilated areas for sleeping, safe play, feeding, and hygienic preparation of milk and food;
- (2) Sanitation, potable water, handwashing, waste disposal, fire safety, disaster preparedness, accessibility, and child-proofing requirements;
- (3) Admission health screening, immunization and health records, referral procedures, and periodic monitoring by appropriate health personnel;
- (4) Nutrition, breastfeeding, milk storage, and food-safety protocols;
- (5) Incident, injury, illness, emergency, and child-release reporting procedures;
- (6) Staff qualifications, training, supervision, background checks, reference checks, and continuing education; and
- (7) Child protection, safeguarding, confidentiality, data protection, complaint, and whistleblowing mechanisms.

No person with a disqualifying criminal, child-protection, or administrative record shall be engaged as personnel or volunteer in a CCMC, subject to applicable law on confidentiality, due process, and the treatment of records. The DSWD shall periodically review the standards in consultation with LGUs, solo parent organizations, ECCD service providers, and other stakeholders.

(h) **PHASED ESTABLISHMENT.** – Compliance with this Section shall be phased as follows: highly urbanized cities, independent component cities, component cities, and first-class municipalities, within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act; second- and third-class municipalities, within three (3) years; and fourth- to sixth-class municipalities, within four (4) years: Provided, That in every locality in the last phase, the network of Accredited Neighborhood Family Care Providers under Section 10-B shall be organized and operational within eighteen (18) months from the effectivity of this Act as the interim mode of delivery: Provided, further, That the obligation of a fourth- to sixth-class municipality to establish a CCMC shall arise only upon the programming and release of the national counterpart funding provided under this Act."

**SECTION 6. New Section 10-B.** – A new Section 10-B is hereby inserted in Republic Act No. 8972, as amended, to read as follows:

**"SECTION 10-B. Accredited Neighborhood Family Care Providers (*Kalinga sa Kapitbahay*).** – In fourth- to sixth-class municipalities, island and coastal barangays,

geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, and any locality where the establishment of a Community Child Minding Center is not immediately feasible, the local government unit, in coordination with the DSWD, shall organize a network of Accredited Neighborhood Family Care Providers.

An Accredited Neighborhood Family Care Provider shall: (a) undergo training jointly designed by the DSWD, the TESDA, and the ECCD Council covering infant and child care, nutrition, pediatric first aid, child protection, and safeguarding; (b) submit a National Bureau of Investigation clearance, a barangay certification, and the results of a home safety assessment conducted by the local social welfare and development office; (c) care for not more than four (4) children at any given time, of whom not more than two (2) may be below two (2) years of age; and (d) be subject to unannounced monitoring visits by the local social welfare and development office at least once every quarter.

Accredited providers shall receive an honorarium and personal accident and liability insurance coverage chargeable to the funds provided under this Act. Accreditation shall be valid for two (2) years and may be revoked at any time for cause after notice and hearing, or immediately and provisionally where there is a prima facie showing of risk to any child."

**SEC. 7. *New Section 10-C.*** – A new Section 10-C is hereby inserted in Republic Act No. 8972, as amended, to read as follows:

**"SECTION 10-C. *Child Care Support for Solo Parents in the Informal and Platform-Based Economy.*** – The DOLE, in coordination with the DSWD and the Department of Trade and Industry, shall maintain a registry of platform-based solo parent workers and shall integrate solo parent status into existing informal sector and self-employed worker registration systems, without prejudice to any determination of employment status under existing law and jurisprudence.

A digital labor platform with five hundred (500) or more registered workers in the Philippines shall contribute annually to a Solo Parent Child Care Support Fund, to be administered by the DSWD, or shall provide an equivalent contribution in the form of the direct funding of slots in Community Child Minding Centers or with Accredited Neighborhood Family Care Providers, in an amount and manner to be determined in the implementing rules: Provided, That the implementing rules shall fix the contribution by reference to a reasonable, published formula based on the number of registered workers and gross Philippine transaction volume.

A contributing platform shall be entitled to an additional deduction from its gross income equivalent to fifty percent (50%) of the verified contribution actually made during the taxable year, subject to the rules of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

No platform shall recover, offset, or pass on the cost of any contribution under this Section, in whole or in part, to its workers through the reduction of fees, incentives, commissions, or any other form of compensation, or through the imposition of any new charge. Any such act shall be a prohibited act under Section 26 of this Act."

**SEC. 8. *New Section 14-A.*** – A new Section 14-A is hereby inserted in Republic Act No. 8972, as amended, to read as follows:

**"SECTION 14-A. *Solo Parent Transition Assistance.*** – A parent who becomes a solo parent by reason of the death, detention, physical or mental incapacity, or abandonment of a spouse or co-parent shall be entitled, for a period of twelve (12) months from the occurrence of such event, to the following:

- (a) **EXPEDITED IDENTIFICATION.** – The Solo Parent Office or Solo Parent Division shall issue a provisional Solo Parent Identification Card within three (3) working days from the submission of a barangay certification and a sworn affidavit attesting to the fact of sole parental care and support, subject to post-verification within thirty (30) days and to the completion of the documentary requirements under Section 19 within ninety (90) days;
- (b) **TRANSITION CASH ASSISTANCE.** – Monthly cash assistance in an amount to be determined in the implementing rules but not less than Three thousand pesos (P3,000.00), for a period of six (6) months, chargeable against the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation funds of the DSWD, which shall be in addition to and shall not disqualify the recipient from the cash subsidy under Section 15(a) of this Act;
- (c) **PRIORITY CHILD CARE SLOT.** – Automatic priority admission of the child or children to the nearest Community Child Minding Center, Child Development Center, or Accredited Neighborhood Family Care Provider;
- (d) **CASE MANAGEMENT AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT.** – Assignment of a case manager from the local social welfare and development office and access to grief and psychosocial services for both the solo parent and the child or children; and
- (e) **FACILITATED ACCESS.** – Assistance in claiming death, funeral, survivorship, and disability benefits from the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System, PhilHealth, the Employees' Compensation Commission, and any private insurer, and referral to livelihood, skills training, and employment facilitation programs."

**SECTION 9. *New Section 15-A.*** – A new Section 15-A is hereby inserted in Republic Act No. 8972, as amended, to read as follows:

**"SECTION 15-A. *Care Arrangements Arising from Economic Necessity.*** – The fact alone that a solo parent left a child in a care arrangement, or in the care of another person, while engaged in work or in the search for work shall not, by itself, be taken as neglect or abandonment under Presidential Decree No. 603 or Republic Act No. 7610, and shall instead be treated as a ground for immediate referral of the family to the services provided under this Act.

Nothing in this Section shall be construed to limit, delay, or excuse intervention by the DSWD, law enforcement, or any court where there is actual abuse, exploitation, or a serious and immediate risk to the life, safety, or health of a child. In all cases, the responsible agency shall document the referral to services made or attempted before any case is filed against a solo parent on the ground of neglect arising from work-related absence."

**SECTION 10. *Amendment of Section 19 (Documentary Requirements).*** – Section 19 of Republic Act No. 8972, as amended, is hereby amended by inserting the following paragraphs at the end thereof:

"Where the applicant was a partner in a common-law relationship as defined under Section 3(f) of this Act, an Affidavit of Cohabitation executed by the applicant together with a certification from the Punong barangay, or the Affidavit of Two (2) Disinterested persons, shall be accepted in lieu of a Marriage Certificate.

All affidavits required under this Section may be subscribed before the punong barangay, a public attorney, or any government official authorized to administer oaths, free of charge. No fee of any kind shall be collected in connection with the application for, issuance, or renewal of the solo parent identification card or booklet."

**SECTION 11. *Amendment of Section 20 (Solo Parent Identification Card and Booklet).*** – The second paragraph of Section 20 of Republic Act No. 8972, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"The SPIC and booklet are valid for one (1) year: Provided, that for any other category whose factual basis is not subject to change, the spic and booklet shall be valid for three (3) years, subject only to the annual submission of a sworn affidavit of continuing sole parental care and support, which may be filed electronically or through the barangay."

**SECTION 12. *Non-Discrimination Against Solo Parent Workers Availing of Child Care Services.*** – No employer, contractor, principal, or digital labor platform shall deactivate, suspend, penalize, downgrade, reduce the work allocation or incentives of, or otherwise discriminate against a solo parent by reason of the parent's registration as a solo parent, availment of services under this Act, or use of extended or non-standard care hours. Any violation shall be subject to the penalties under Section 26 of Republic Act No. 8972, as amended, without prejudice to any remedy under the Labor Code and other laws.

**SECTION 13. *Local Livelihood and Care-Needs Mapping.*** – Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, and every three (3) years thereafter, every city and municipality shall conduct, through its local social welfare and development office and Solo Parent Office or Solo Parent Division, a mapping of the working hours, work locations, and child care needs of solo parents within its jurisdiction, utilizing the Community-Based Monitoring System under Republic Act No. 11315. The results shall determine the siting, operating hours, and staffing of Community Child Minding Centers and shall be submitted to the DSWD and to the Inter-Agency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee. The collection, use, retention, sharing, and publication of information under this Section shall comply with Republic Act No. 10173 and other applicable confidentiality and child-protection laws. Personally identifiable information shall not be publicly disclosed except as authorized by law or with the required consent.

**SECTION 14. *Gawad Kalinga sa Anak.*** – There is hereby established an annual recognition program to be administered by the DSWD upon the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee. Awards shall be conferred upon:

- (a) local government units with the highest verified child-care coverage for solo parents within each comparable income class and geographic category; and
- (b) local government units with the greatest verified improvement in child-care coverage from the immediately preceding year.

The implementing rules shall establish transparent, publicly available criteria, including coverage, quality, accessibility, operating hours, child-safety compliance, financial integrity, and reporting completeness. Comparisons shall be made only among local government units with substantially comparable income class, geographic conditions, and service responsibilities.

No cash prize shall be paid to any public official or local government unit but the recognized local government unit shall be given priority consideration in the programming of national counterpart funding under this Act.

**SECTION 15. *Reportorial Requirement.*** – The Inter-Agency Coordinating and Monitoring Committee created under Section 24 of Republic Act No. 8972, as amended, shall include in its annual report to Congress the number of Community Child Minding Centers established and their operating hours; the number of Accredited Neighborhood Family Care Providers; the number of children served, disaggregated by age, by the work status of the solo parent, and by geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas; the number of local government units

providing the cash subsidy under Section 15(a); and the utilization of the Solo Parent Child Care Support Fund. The Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Solo Parents shall review the implementation of this Act annually for the first three (3) years.

**SECTION 16. *Relationship to Other Laws; Continuing Effect of Issuances.*** – This Act builds upon and shall be construed in harmony with Republic Act No. 8972, as amended by Republic Act No. 11861, Republic Act No. 12199, Republic Act No. 11315, Presidential Decree No. 603, and Republic Act No. 7610, and diminishes no right or benefit granted under any of them. All issuances, standards, and registration systems of the DSWD, the DOLE, the CSC, and the ECCD Council consistent with this Act, including the ongoing registration and unified identification programs for solo parents, shall continue in full force and effect and are hereby adopted as the initial implementing framework of this Act. This Act shall likewise be applied consistently with any subsequent amendment to Republic Act No. 8972, as amended, whether enacted before, together with, or after this Act, in the manner that gives the fullest effect to the child care access rights herein created.

**SECTION 17. *Protection of Officials and Personnel Acting in Good Faith; Cause Attribution.*** – No local chief executive, local social welfare and development officer, child development worker, or other official or employee shall be administratively or criminally liable for any delay or shortfall in the implementation of this Act that is directly attributable to the non-release, delayed release, or insufficiency of national counterpart funding, or to any cause originating outside the official's authority and means, as duly documented: Provided, That this Section shall not excuse liability for negligence, misuse of funds, or any act or omission constituting a violation of law within the official's own control.

**SECTION 18. *Appropriations.*** – The amount of *Two billion pesos (P2,000,000,000.00)* is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act, chargeable against the budget of the DSWD. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The National Government shall provide counterpart funding for the establishment and operation of Community Child Minding Centers, with full counterpart for fourth- to sixth-class municipalities and for the local government units with the highest poverty incidence based on the latest official small area poverty estimates, and with a cost-sharing schedule for all other local government units to be fixed in the implementing rules. Local government units may utilize their Gender and Development budget and their development fund for the implementation of this Act. Contributions to the Solo Parent Child Care Support Fund shall be additional to, and shall not be a substitute for, appropriations under this Section.

**SECTION 19. *Implementing Rules and Regulations; Self-Executing Provisions.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, in coordination with the DOLE, the DILG, the DOH, the CSC, the ECCD Council, the TESDA, the DTI, the BIR, the PCW, the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, the League of Cities of the Philippines, the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and duly recognized solo parent organizations, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act: Provided, That the failure to promulgate such rules shall not suspend the effectivity of this Act, and Sections 9, 10, 11, 12, and 17 hereof, together with the expedited identification under Section 14-A(a) of Republic Act No. 8972, as herein inserted, shall be self-executing upon the effectivity of this Act.

**SECTION 20. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 21. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 22. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*