

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11347



Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Adolescent pregnancy remains a significant public health, education, and social protection concern in the Philippines. While recent data show encouraging improvements¹, the persistence of pregnancies among adolescents, particularly among younger girls and those from disadvantaged households, demonstrates the need for a comprehensive and sustained national response.

The figures reveal that teenage pregnancy is closely linked to socioeconomic disadvantage. The PSA's 2022 National Demographic and Health Survey reported that 10.3 percent of women aged 15 to 19 in the poorest wealth quintile had experienced pregnancy, compared with only 1.8 percent among those in the wealthiest quintile.² These disparities demonstrate that adolescent pregnancy cannot be addressed solely as a matter of individual choice. It is also a question of unequal access to information, health services, education, protection, and opportunities.

Of even greater concern are pregnancies involving very young adolescents. PSA data showed that registered births to mothers aged 10 to 14 increased from 1,903 in 2016 to 2,113 in 2020, an increase of 11 percent. During this period, an average of five to seven births each day were registered to mothers aged 10 to 14.³ Pregnancies at such young ages require particular attention from the State because they may be associated with abuse, exploitation, coercion, or other circumstances that compromise a child's safety and rights.

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), 2025 National Demographic and Health Survey: Teenage Pregnancy. The 2025 NDHS reports that 4.9 percent of women aged 15–19 had ever been pregnant, compared with 5.4 percent in 2022.

² Philippine Statistics Authority, 2022 National Demographic and Health Survey: Teenage Pregnancy. The PSA defines teenage pregnancy as the percentage of women aged 15–19 who have ever been pregnant. The survey reported a prevalence of 10.3 percent among women in the lowest wealth quintile and 1.8 percent among those in the highest wealth quintile.

³ Philippine Statistics Authority, Adolescent Pregnancy in the Philippines: 2016–2020, PSA Reference No. 2022-477, 8 December 2022. The report states that registered births to mothers aged 10–14 increased from 1,903 in 2016 to 2,113 in 2020, equivalent to an 11.0 percent increase.

The consequences of adolescent pregnancy can extend beyond pregnancy and childbirth. A young mother may face difficulty continuing her education, increased economic vulnerability, diminished employment opportunities, and greater dependence on her family or social protection programs. These consequences can, in turn, reinforce an intergenerational cycle of poverty.

The response of government must never be to stigmatize adolescent parents. A young person who becomes pregnant remains entitled to education, health care, protection, and opportunities to build a productive and dignified life. Prevention and support must therefore go hand in hand.

The proposed Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Act seeks to adopt a prevention-centered, family-supported, values-based, and age- and development-appropriate approach to adolescent pregnancy. It recognizes that no single government agency, program, or intervention can adequately address the problem. The measure therefore establishes the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Inter-Agency Council which shall serve as the policy-making body responsible for the development of a national framework that shall be called the National Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Education Program.

The measure shall strengthen, at the community level age, culturally-sensitive and responsive, and age- and development-appropriate education on responsible decision-making, healthy relationships, self-respect, self-discipline, personal boundaries, and the consequences of early and unplanned pregnancy and childbearing for all adolescents through the development and delivery of the Adolescent Pregnancy and Reproductive Health Education.

The measure further recognizes the importance of parents, families, schools, communities, and local governments. Government programs will have limited impact if young people lack supportive environments in which they can ask questions, obtain reliable information, seek help, and make responsible decisions without fear of stigma. The bill therefore promotes stronger family and community engagement and clearer coordination among service providers.

Education continuity shall be an important component of the national strategy through School-Based Programs to be implemented by the Department of Education which includes interventions such as educational, career, and life-planning support, and continuing educational support and reintegration of adolescent parents.

The proposed Act shall likewise strengthen mechanisms for the early identification and referral of adolescents who may be at heightened risk of pregnancy, school disengagement, abuse, exploitation, or other forms of vulnerability. Particular attention shall be given to children and adolescents in communities with persistently high rates of adolescent pregnancy or other identified risk factors.

Importantly, the proposed legislation shall be implemented consistently with existing laws protecting children and adolescents, including laws on child protection and violence against women and children and mandates additional safeguards to protect children from sexual abuse, exploitation, coercion, and other forms of violence that may result to unwanted pregnancy.

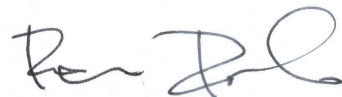
Lastly, the measure shall provide a comprehensive Social Protection Program for Adolescent Parents and their Children that shall include information and services that addresses risks, vulnerabilities, and needs attendant to being a young parent.

The goal is not simply to reduce a statistic. The goal is to prevent circumstances that prematurely place adult responsibilities upon children and adolescents, while ensuring that those who are already parents are not left behind.

Every adolescent who gains access to appropriate health information and services, every young person protected from abuse, and every young parent who is given a genuine opportunity to return to school represents an investment in the country's human capital.

The Philippines cannot afford a fragmented response to adolescent pregnancy. We need policies that are grounded in evidence, coordinated across institutions, and responsive to the realities faced by Filipino families and young people. The proposed Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Act seeks to provide that framework. By strengthening prevention, education, health services, child protection, family support, and education continuity, the measure seeks to ensure that teenage pregnancy does not become a barrier that determines the course of a young person's entire life.

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



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Lone District of Pasig City

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HOUSE BILL NO. 11347

Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo

AN ACT
PROMOTING THE PREVENTION OF ADOLESCENT
PREGNANCY, STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR ADOLESCENTS, AND
PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY
PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

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

1 **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the “**Adolescent Pregnancy**
2 **Prevention Act.**”

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to promote and
4 protect the rights, welfare, dignity, health, education, and holistic development of
5 adolescents, and to recognize and uphold the natural and primary right and duty of
6 parents to provide for the care, guidance, formation, and protection of their children
7 and adolescents.

8 The State further recognizes that adolescent pregnancy may have significant
9 and lasting consequences for the adolescent, the child, the family, and the community,
10 including interruption of education, diminished employment and economic
11 opportunities, increased financial responsibilities, and risks to maternal and child
12 health and well-being.

13 Towards this end, the State shall adopt a prevention-centered, family-
14 supported, values-based, and developmentally appropriate approach to adolescent
15 pregnancy, which shall empower adolescents to make responsible and informed
16 decisions, establish healthy boundaries, understand the consequences of early and
17 unplanned pregnancy and parenthood, and pursue their educational, personal, and
18 life goals. Such approach shall include, as appropriate, abstinence, delayed

1 childbearing, responsible relationships, and other lawful and age- and development-
2 appropriate measures for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy.

3 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to stigmatize adolescents who become
4 pregnant or to diminish the rights and protections afforded to children and
5 adolescents under existing laws.

6 **SEC. 3. Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Inter-Agency Council. –**
7 The Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Inter-Agency Council, hereinafter referred to as
8 the Council, is hereby established. The Council shall serve as the policy-making body
9 responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies and programs on
10 family-oriented and adolescent-friendly reproductive health, centered on the
11 prevention of risky behaviors, the promotion of responsible and health-conscious
12 choices, counseling, and care for adolescents facing pregnancy. Accordingly, the
13 Council shall develop coherent, rational, unified, effective and efficient structures,
14 systems, and mechanisms for a social protection program addressing the reproductive
15 health and other related concerns of adolescents.

16 The Council shall be composed of the following members:

- 17 (a) Secretary of the Department of Health, as Chairperson;
18 (b) Executive Director of the Commission on Population and Development, as
19 Vice Chairperson;
20 (c) Secretary of the Department of Justice;
21 (d) Secretary of the Department of Education;
22 (e) Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development;
23 (f) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government;
24 (g) Chairperson of the Philippine Commission on Women,
25 (h) Chairperson of the National Youth Commission,
26 (i) Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education,
27 (j) Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development
28 Authority,
29 (k) Executive Director of the Council on Welfare of Children,
30 (l) Two (2) representatives women's groups, a representative from a youth
31 group, and a representative from a group advocating for family, who shall
32 be appointed by a majority vote of the ex-officio members of the Council.

33 The ex-officio members may designate duly authorized permanent
34 representatives, who shall have a rank not lower than Undersecretary.

35 **SEC. 4. National Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Education**
36 **Program. –** The Council shall, in collaboration with other relevant national agencies,
37 local government units, non-government organizations, and civil society
38 organizations, develop an evidence-based coordinated national framework for the
39 prevention of adolescent pregnancy.

40 The Program shall be anchored on a comprehensive, prevention-centered, and
41 family-oriented framework and shall, consistent with the rights, welfare, and best

interests of adolescents, prioritize the development, implementation, and sustained delivery of measures, interventions, and support mechanisms directed toward the prevention of adolescent pregnancy, including the following:

- a) Responsible and informed decision-making, including abstinence, delayed childbearing, healthy relationships, and other age- and development-appropriate approaches to preventing adolescent pregnancy;
- b) Values formation, personal responsibility, and the development of healthy boundaries and relationships;
- c) Awareness of the potential consequences and responsibilities associated with early and unplanned pregnancy and parenthood;
- d) Strengthening parent-adolescent communication, parental guidance, and family support;
- e) Educational attainment career development, and life planning;
- f) Prevention and early identification of grooming, sexual abuse, exploitation, coercion, trafficking, violence, and other circumstances that may place adolescents at risk of pregnancy;
- g) Promotion of adolescent mental, emotional, and social well-being;
- h) Community-based prevention, protection, and early intervention; and
- i) Appropriate support for adolescents who are already pregnant or parenting, including measures to support continued education and prevent repeat adolescent pregnancy.

SEC. 5. Adolescent Pregnancy and Reproductive Health Education.

– The Council shall develop and deliver, at the community level, culturally-sensitive and age- and development-appropriate education on responsible decision-making, delayed childbearing, healthy relationships, self-respect, self-discipline, personal boundaries, and the consequences of early and unplanned pregnancy and childbearing, for all adolescents, including indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, out-of-school youth, children in conflict with the law: Provided, That cultural norms and practices that may violate human rights, prejudice the best interests of the child, damage optimal health and development, or reinforce discrimination against women and girls shall be prohibited.

Such education, along with the corresponding educational materials shall convey that:

- (a) Adolescents have the right and capacity to establish personal boundaries and to refuse sexual activity;
- (b) Sexual activity carries responsibilities and potential consequences, including health and pregnancy-related risks, that adolescents should understand before making decisions;
- (c) Parenthood entails continuing responsibilities for the health, development, education, protection, and welfare of the child;
- (d) Pregnancy and parenthood during adolescence may result in the interruption or discontinuation of schooling, reduced educational and

1 employment opportunities, and financial and economic responsibilities,
2 and may affect family relationships, household resources, and future
3 economic independence;

4 (e) Early parenthood carries emotional and psychological challenges, as well as
5 long term-implications for both parents and children;

6 (f) Every child, including one born to adolescent parent, has needs and rights
7 that must be upheld;

8 (g) Adolescents may be vulnerable to grooming, manipulation, or exploitation
9 by older individuals in positions of trust or authority, and shall be taught to
10 recognize such patterns, understand that they are never at fault, and know
11 how and where to safely seek help; and

12 (h) Postponing pregnancy and parenthood until adulthood, and until an
13 individual is adequately prepared for the responsibilities of raising a child,
14 is a responsible life choice.

15 The education and materials under this Section shall be delivered through
16 barangay-based, local government, and community programs, in coordination with
17 parents, parent-substitutes, and civil society organizations in the community, and
18 shall be presented accurately, objectively, and compassionately. It shall be educational
19 and preventive nature, and shall be delivered in a manner that does not shame,
20 stigmatize, induce undue fear, or discriminate against adolescents who are pregnant
21 or who are already parents.

22 **SEC. 6. Parent and Family Education and Support.** – The Council shall
23 develop and implement Parent and Family Education and Support Programs through
24 schools, barangays, health facilities, and other appropriate community-based settings
25 to equip parents and families to provide appropriate guidance, supervision, support,
26 and values formation to adolescents and to prevent adolescent pregnancy.

27 The Program shall:

28 a) Strengthen parent-adolescent communication on relationships, personal
29 boundaries, responsibility, and the consequences of early and unplanned
30 pregnancy and parenthood;

31 b) Promote appropriate parental guidance, supervision, values formation, and
32 family support, consistent with the adolescent's age and developmental
33 needs;

34 c) Enable parents and families to identify and respond to grooming, abuse,
35 exploitation, coercion, violence, and other circumstances that may place
36 adolescents at risk of pregnancy;

37 d) Support adolescents in pursuing and completing their education and
38 developing educational, career, and long-term life goals; and

39 e) Facilitate access to appropriate professional, governmental, and
40 community-based services and support.

41 Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require parental participation or
42 involvement where a parent or parent-substitute is the alleged perpetrator of abuse,

1 exploitation, coercion, or violence, or where such involvement would place the
2 adolescent at risk of harm. In such cases, appropriate child protection, reporting,
3 referral, and support mechanisms shall apply in accordance with law.

4 **SEC. 7. School-Based Programs.** – The DepEd shall implement the
5 National Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Education Program established under
6 Section 5 of this Act through interventions, including:

- 7 a) Parent and family engagement;
- 8 b) Counseling, referral, and support services;
- 9 c) Early identification and appropriate intervention for adolescents at
10 heightened risk of pregnancy or school dropout;
- 11 d) Coordination with parents and relevant service providers, subject to
12 applicable child protection and privacy laws;
- 13 e) Educational, career, and life-planning support;
- 14 f) Continuing educational support and reintegration of adolescent parents.

15 Nothing in the programs should shame, stigmatize, induce undue fear, or
16 discriminate against adolescents who are pregnant or who are already parents.

17 **SEC. 8. Community-Based Programs.** – Local government units, in
18 coordination with the Council, shall establish or strengthen community-based
19 mechanisms for the implementation of the National Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention
20 and Education Program established under Section 5 of this Act through barangays,
21 health facilities, youth organizations, civil society organizations, and other appropriate
22 partners. Priority shall be given to communities with persistently high rates of
23 adolescent pregnancy or other identified risk factors.

24 **SEC. 10. Prevention and Protection Against Sexual Abuse and**
25 **Exploitation.** – The Council, in coordination with the appropriate national agencies,
26 local government units, schools, health facilities, and other concerned institutions,
27 shall establish and implement mechanisms for the prevention, early identification,
28 protection, referral, and appropriate intervention in cases of sexual abuse,
29 exploitation, grooming, coercion, trafficking, or other forms of sexual violence
30 involving adolescents that may result in pregnancy.

31 In cases where an adolescent pregnancy results from, or is associated with, any
32 such circumstance, the concerned institution or health provider shall, in accordance
33 with existing laws and child protection protocols, immediately ensure the safety of the
34 adolescent and facilitate access to appropriate medical, psychosocial, legal, social
35 welfare, and protective services, including referral to the proper authorities where
36 required by law.

37 Parental or family involvement shall not be required where the alleged
38 perpetrator is a parent, parent-substitute, relative, or other person exercising
39 authority or influence over the adolescent.

SEC. 9. Social Protection Program for Adolescent Parents and their Children. — A comprehensive social protection program shall be provided to adolescents who are already parents or currently pregnant, and their partners to prevent repeat pregnancies and to ensure their well-being while assuming the responsibilities of being young parents. The social protection program shall include information and services that address the risks, vulnerabilities, and needs attendant to being a young parent, such as:

- (a) Maternal health services including pre-natal, ante-natal, and post-natal check-ups and facility-based delivery;
- (b) Post-natal family planning counseling and services for either or both adolescent parents;
- (c) Home-based, in-school, or tech-vocational education for adolescent mothers and parents;
- (d) Personal Philippine Health Insurance coverage, making mandatory enrollment and membership of indigent adolescent mothers;
- (e) Training, skills development, and support to livelihood programs for the household of the adolescent parents especially for the indigents;
- (f) Continuing reproductive health education for adolescent parents;
- (g) Workshops on couples counseling, parenting, and positive discipline for the prospective parents;
- (h) Protective and support services for adolescents who are victims of or are exposed to gender-based violence, abuse, and exploitation;
- (i) Safety net measures for adolescent parents during emergency and crisis situations;
- (j) Support mechanisms that will encourage the return of adolescent parents to schools such as in-school day-care, breastfeeding stations, among others; and
- (k) Bio-psycho-social and spiritual (BPSS) support and mental health services for adolescent mothers.

Beneficiaries of the Program under this Section who are 18 years of age or older shall be entitled to maternity and paternity leave, as applicable, in accordance with existing laws. Pregnancy, childbirth, or parenthood shall not be a ground for suspension, forced resignation, dismissal, exclusion, or any other discriminatory act in the workplace or educational institution. The local councils, through the Local Social Welfare and Development and the Population Office, shall implement a continuing reproductive health education program for adolescent mothers and fathers, with technical assistance from the Council.

The services shall safeguard the rights of adolescents to privacy and confidentiality: Provided, That confidentiality and data privacy claims shall not prevent, restrict, or impede the mandatory reporting, investigation, and prosecution of child abuse, sexual violence, exploitation, or offences under applicable child protection laws, nor shall it preclude notifying parents or parent-substitutes when necessary to protect the child from grave harm.

1 **SEC. 10. National Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign and**
2 **Awareness Month.** – The Council, in coordination with other national agencies,
3 local government units, non-government organizations, and civil society
4 organizations, and other stakeholders, shall develop, implement, and sustain a
5 nationwide and community-based public awareness campaign for the prevention of
6 adolescent pregnancy.

7 The entire month of February of every year is hereby designated as the
8 “Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Awareness Month,” which shall be observed
9 nationwide through appropriate activities and initiatives to raise public awareness,
10 promote informed and responsible decision-making, strengthen family and
11 community support, and mobilize stakeholders toward the prevention of adolescent
12 pregnancy. All activities under this Section shall be age- and development-
13 appropriate, evidence-based, culturally sensitive and responsive, non-stigmatizing,
14 and consistent with the Constitution and existing laws.

15 **SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days
16 from the effectivity of this Act, the members of the Council under Section 4 shall
17 formulate the implementing rules and regulations to implement this Act.

18 **SEC. 12. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations
19 or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

20 **SEC. 13. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
21 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
22 provisions hereof.

23 **SEC. 14. Effectivity.** – Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the
24 Implementing Rules and Regulations, this Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
25 following its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,