

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

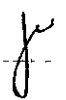


Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2299

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE, ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE
EARLY DETECTION AND TIMELY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR
CHILDREN WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2004, Republic Act 9288, otherwise known as the "Newborn Screening Act" was signed into law to ensure that every baby is offered the opportunity to undergo newborn screening and be spared from heritable conditions that can lead to mental retardation and death if undetected and untreated. Then in 2009, a law with a more specified purpose, Republic Act 9709, otherwise known as the "Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention Act" was enacted "to formulate a comprehensive program for the prevention, early detection and diagnosis of congenital hearing loss among newborns and infants."

While the aforementioned laws address the need for early detection of diseases among children, there is a need to focus more attention to early detection of mental illness among children. The Comparative Hospital Statistics for the years 2006-2012 of the National Center for Mental Health indicates that the average number of inpatients is almost 3,000 while the number of outpatients is at 54,857 in 2012. These figures definitely do not reflect the whole story because there are many unreported cases due to lack of awareness, denial, or shame of the patients' families. These statistics highlight the need to detect and address mental illness at the soonest time possible. This will be very helpful in relieving the patients and their families of the sufferings and sacrifices brought by their condition.

The "*Early Detection and Intervention Services for Children with Mental Illness Act*" aims to address this concern from all facets: (a) promoting evidence-based intervention; (b) building a qualified and adequately trained workforce; (c) conducting a comprehensive public awareness campaign; and, (d) creating a quality children's mental health system.


This measure was previously filed by Sen. Manny Villar in the 15th Congress. The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Early Detection and*
2 *Intervention Services for Children with Mental Illness Act*”.

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5 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated
6 and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to
7 make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people
8 at affordable cost.

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11 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall
12 mean:

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14 (a) “Mental Illness” – any of various psychiatric conditions, usually
15 characterized by impairment of a child’s normal cognitive, emotional, or
16 behavioral functioning, and caused by physiological or psychosocial
17 factors;

18
19 (b) “Intervention” – educational methods and positive behavioral support
20 strategies designed to improve the condition of a child suffering from
21 mental disorder.

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23
24 **SEC. 4.** The Department of Health (DOH) shall undertake to develop a program
25 providing for comprehensive accessible and affordable early mental health
26 detection and timely intervention services for children. The objectives of this
27 program includes but not limited to the following:

28
29 (a) To increase awareness, reduce barriers to screening and diagnosis,
30 promote evidence-based interventions for children with mental disorder or
31 other developmental disabilities;

1 (b) To build a qualified and adequately trained workforce prepared to provide
2 mental health services for children and their families;

3
4 (c) To conduct a comprehensive, multi-faceted public awareness campaign to
5 reduce the stigma of mental illness as well as to educate families, the
6 general public and other key audiences about the benefits of children's
7 social and emotional development, and how to access services; and,
8

9 (d) To create a quality-driven children's mental health system with shared
10 accountability among agencies and programs that conducts ongoing
11 needs assessments, uses outcome indicators and benchmarks to
12 measure progress, and implements quality data tracking and reporting
13 system.
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16 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Department of Health shall
17 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this
18 Act.
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21 **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act shall at any time be
22 found to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not affected by such
23 declaration shall remain in full force and effect.
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26 **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, rules or regulations inconsistent
27 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
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30 **SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
31 following its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
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37 *Approved,*