

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



75 JAN -5 P3 52

SENATE
S. No. 2546

RECEIVED BY. *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
INCLUDING THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON AS A
MEMBER OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL, AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8504, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
PHILIPPINE AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT OF 1998

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 13 provides:

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. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

Every day in 2011, 2,400 youth ages 15-24 are infected with HIV.¹ The United Nations has expressed grave concern that the youth account for more than one third of all new HIV infections, and noted that only 34% of them possess accurate knowledge of HIV.² It has committed to encourage and support the active involvement and leadership of the youth in the fight against HIV at the local, national, and global levels.³

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and the World Health Organization (WHO) recognize the role of the youth for a successful fight against HIV/AIDS. They observed that the exclusion of

¹ UNAIDS (10 August 2012), Putting young people at the centre of the response to HIV, <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2012/august/20120810youthday>.

² United Nations General Assembly, A/Res/65/277, Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/document/2011/06/20110610_UN_A-RES-65-277_en.pdf.

³ *Id.*

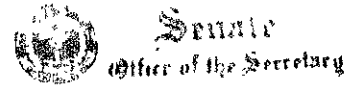
the youth in the drafting of strategies and policies on HIV/AIDS is “tragic as young people are more likely than adults to adopt and maintain safe behaviors.”⁴

This bill seeks to address the call of these international organizations to promote youth participation in HIV/AIDS management by including a representative of the youth in the Philippine National AIDS Council. It aims to give the youth a voice in making policies that directly affect them as a sector most vulnerable to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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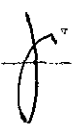
⁴ UNICEF, UNAIDS, and WHO (2002), Young People and HIV/AIDS Opportunity in Crisis, http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/pub_youngpeople_hiv aids_en.pdf.

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

1 AN ACT
2 INCLUDING THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON AS A
3 MEMBER OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL, AMENDING FOR
4 THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8504, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
5 PHILIPPINE AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT OF 1998

6 SECTION 1. Republic Act No. 8504, otherwise known as the Philippine AIDS
7 Prevention and Control Act of 1998, Section 45, is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 45. *Membership and composition.* - (a) The Council shall be composed of
9 ~~twenty-six (26)~~ [TWENTY-SEVEN (27)] members as follows:

10

11 (21) CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION
12 (NYC) OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE.

13 SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
14 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to,
15 or inconsistent with, the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
16 accordingly.

1 SECTION 3. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) days
2 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/tmp13Dec2014