THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

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SENATE

S.B. No. 914

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Education is a lifetime activity that empowers man with knowledge, skills and values necessary for survival and enhancement of life. From the womb to the grave, an individual studies and learns about himself, other persons, the world, the things around him, the universe.

A person's first teacher is his parent, usually his mother. Herein lies a major aspect of the parenting role: providing for the education of offspring so that they may be well equipped to face the multifarious demands of life and society. Needless to say, each parent must be prepared to handle the awesome responsibility if future members of Philippine society are to become fit and productive.

Recognizing that infancy and childhood are the periods in the life of the individual when the information of the basic personality and character is most easily influenced, the mother's role in early education of infants, even that which starts at the womb, cannot be underestimated. This very important task must be initiated by the mother, who must herself be prepared and ready with the appropriate skills and knowledge of the first teacher and nurse. In her hands, the child waits to be molded into the healthy, wise and good adult he become. For Indeed, "the child is father of the man."

In support to this principle, this proposed measure provides for the establishment of a literacy program for all expectant mothers in all hospitals, clinics, health centers and other similar establishments. It seek to help build the capability of expectant parents in carrying out their responsibilities to their children and to a future generation of intelligent, morally upright, psychologically stable Filipinos.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.

JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

Senator

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AN ACT

PROVIDING THAT ALL HOSPITALS, CLINICS, HEALTH CENTERS AND OTHER SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS RENDERING MATERNITY SERVICE SHALL ESTABLISH LITERACY PROGRAMS FOR ALL EXPECTANT MOTHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. **Declaration of Policy.** It shall be the policy of the State to promote the provision of formal and informal venues for maternal literacy in the community level in order to assist parents in preparation of their vital role in the molding of a future generation of intelligent, morally upright, healthy and psychological stable Filipinos.

SECTION 2. Coverage. All public and private hospitals, clinic, health centers and other similar establishments rendering maternity service shall provide literacy programs to all expectant mother within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act. For this purpose, the literacy programs shall include a reading and music room or corner in such establishments, equipped with reading materials such as nursery rhymes, bedtime stories and other children's book and where recorded music can be played.

SECTION 3. *Lead Agency*. The Department of Health, In coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act, that shall include the penalty of cancellation of license to operate plus payment of fines not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) but not to exceed One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00).

SECTION 4. *Appropriation*. The amount needed for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of Health under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be needed for the continued Implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity*. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) major newspapers of national circulation.

Approved, .