


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



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SENATE
P.S. RES. No. 462

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALARMING INCREASE OF PREGNANCIES AMONG 10 TO 14-YEAR-OLDS, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF TAKING A WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH IN DEVELOPING A POLICY FRAMEWORK TO PREVENT EARLY CHILDBEARING AND ITS NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES

1 WHEREAS, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data show that despite the
2 decreasing trend in the adolescent birth rate for the period of 2016-2020, births to
3 mothers aged 10 to 14 years old have been gradually increasing each year, and for
4 the covered period, has increased by 11% from 1,903 births in 2016 to 2,113
5 registered births in 2020;¹

6 WHEREAS, in the same PSA report, it was established that the majority of
7 registered adolescent live births were fathered by men three to five years older than
8 the mother, while fathers who are more than ten years older than the adolescent
9 mothers are responsible for about six to seven per cent of births, every year, from
10 2016 to 2020;

11 WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), factors that
12 contribute to adolescent pregnancies and birth include: (a) societal pressures to marry
13 and bear children; (b) limited educational and employment prospects; (c) inadequate
14 access to contraceptives or restrictive laws and policies related thereto; and, (d) child
15 sexual abuse;²

¹ <https://psa.gov.ph/vital-statistics/id/168464>
² <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/adolescent-pregnancy>

1 WHEREAS, the continuing increase in child and teenage births has been noted
2 by the Commission on Population (POPCOM) as early as 2011 and has highlighted the
3 need for a whole-of-government approach to address the problem of teenage
4 pregnancy;³

5 WHEREAS, in 2021, then President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Executive Order
6 (EO) No. 141, which declared as a national priority the implementation of measures
7 to address the root causes of the rising number of adolescent pregnancies and
8 strengthen the adolescents' capacity to make autonomous and informed decisions
9 about their reproductive and sexual health by ensuring access to comprehensive
10 sexuality education and reproductive health and rights services;⁴

11 WHEREAS, by virtue of EO 141, the President mandated the POPCOM to
12 consolidate into a Comprehensive Action Plan Towards the Prevention of Adolescent
13 Pregnancies the different initiatives of all government agencies and institutions and
14 submit the same to the Human Development and Poverty Reduction Cabinet Cluster;⁵⁶

15 WHEREAS, EO 141 likewise mandated the Department of Budget and
16 Management to ensure that the annual National Expenditure Program shall include
17 initiatives for the prevention of adolescent pregnancies in the annual Budget Priorities
18 Framework and its budget guidelines and to support Program Convergence Budgeting
19 for these initiatives to ensure harmonized interventions and investment
20 programming;⁷

21 WHEREAS, Congress has actively legislated policies to address teenage
22 pregnancy, such as Republic Act No. 10354 or The Responsible Parenthood and
23 Reproductive Health Act of 2012 which mandates the provision of age- and
24 development-appropriate reproductive health education and includes teen pregnancy
25 as among the relevant subjects thereof;⁸

³ <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/02/08/2076097/philippines-posts-alarming-growth-teenage-pregnancies>

⁴ Executive Order No. 141 series 2021 "Adopting as a national priority the implementation of measures to address the root causes of the rising number of teenage pregnancies, and mobilizing government agencies for the purpose"

⁵ Pursuant to EO No. 24 series of 2017, the composition of the cluster is as follows: DSWD (Chair); Members: ES, CabSec, PMS, DAR, DA, DENR, DepEd, DOH, DOLE, DBM, NEDA, DTI, DILG, TESDA, HUDCC, CHED, and NAPC.

⁶ Section 5, EO 141 series of 2021

⁷ Section 6, EO 141 series of 2021

⁸ Section 14, R.A. 10354

1 WHEREAS, more recently, Congress passed Republic Act No. 11648 which
2 increased the age of consent from twelve to sixteen years of age, to tighten protection
3 against consensual, abusive and exploitative sexual acts involving minors;

4 Global initiative

5 WHEREAS, UNICEF has noted that early childbearing and delivery can derail
6 girls' healthy development to adulthood since many of them are pressured or forced
7 to drop out of school and are subjected to negative social consequences such as
8 reduced status in the home and community, stigmatization, rejection and violence by
9 family members, peers and partners, and early and forced marriage.⁹

10 WHEREAS, UNICEF also observed that adolescent girls, especially those in early
11 adolescence, are especially vulnerable to the health consequences of pregnancy and
12 delivery as their bodies may not be physically ready. Evidence shows that globally,
13 maternal conditions are among the top causes of disability-adjusted life years and
14 death among girls;¹⁰

15 WHEREAS, in its 2022 Policy Framework to prevent teenage pregnancy and its
16 consequences, the UNICEF has suggested that, to reduce teenage pregnancy, a policy
17 shift towards inclusion of men in the issue of reproduction, via a focus on boys'
18 education, is a practical and transformative approach acceptable to both men and
19 women;¹¹

20 WHEREAS, the WHO noted that although strategies and interventions related
21 to adolescent pregnancy relate to pregnancy prevention, an emerging focus is being
22 given to improving access to and quality of maternal care for pregnant and parenting
23 adolescents;¹²

24 WHEREAS, recognizing that child and teenage pregnancy is one of the perennial
25 issues faced by our youth and that it leads to serious health, social and economic
26 consequences, it is therefore incumbent upon government to develop a policy

⁹ <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-health/adolescent-health/>

¹⁰ *ibid*

¹¹ UNICEF, "Policy framework to prevent teenage pregnancy and its consequences" (UNICEF, 2022) accessed on 05 February 2023

<<https://www.unicef.org/romania/media/8881/file/POLICY%20FRAMEWORK%20to%20prevent%20teenage%20pregnancy%20and%20its%20consequences.pdf>>

¹² <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/adolescent-pregnancy>

1 framework, utilizing a whole-of-government approach, in order to address this threat
2 to the holistic development of our children;

3 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, to direct the appropriate
4 Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the alarming increase
5 of pregnancies among 10 to 14-year-olds with the objective of taking a whole-of-
6 government approach to developing a policy framework for the prevention of early
7 childbearing and its negative consequences.

Adopted,



SONNY ANGARA