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SENATE  
S. No. 1802

RECEIVED BY                     

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The understanding and active support of parents for all aspects of schooling is important, if children are to succeed academically. When parents feel accepted, cared about, and respected, they will support the school, regardless of cultural, socio-economic, language, or educational background.

Parents will actively support their children's education when shown how to do so effectively. A parent involvement program can teach parents how to work with their children and their schools. However, the success of such a program is in direct proportion to the belief and commitment of the school leadership and staff; and to the extent that a specific plan with supporting materials, evaluation and accountability components are provided.

This act seeks to: (1) build effective parent involvement in schools in order to help raise student achievement; (2) positively engage parents in their children's education; (3) build consistent and effective communications between home and school so that parents may know their children's progress in all aspects of school life; (4) train teachers to communicate effectively with parents; (5) train parents in home strategies for raising their children's academic success; and (6) train administrators and teachers in building support for schools in the community.\*

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

\* This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE  
S. No. 1802

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT  
2 TO ESTABLISH A "PARENTS AS PARTNERS IN LEARNING" PROGRAM

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

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Parents as Partners in  
4 Learning Act."

5 SECTION 2. *Definitions of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the term:

6 (A) "Eligible applicant" means one or more of the following:

- 7 (1) A local educational agency;
- 8 (2) An individual school;
- 9 (3) A non-profit organization;
- 10 (4) An institution of higher education; or
- 11 (5) A State educational agency.

12 (B) "Parent" includes a legal guardian or other person standing in *loco parentis*; and

13 (C) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of Education.

14 SECTION 3. *Grants Authorized.* –

15 (A) *Grants Authorized.* – The Secretary is authorized to make grants to eligible applicants  
16 to design and carry out projects that seek to build effective parent involvement in the education  
17 of their children in order to raise student achievement. In malting grants under this Act, the  
18 Secretary shall take into consideration regional, cultural, and ethnic diversity within the  
19 Philippines.

1 (B) *Priority.* – In awarding grants under this Act, the Secretary shall give priority to  
2 eligible applicants whose applications:

3 (1) Demonstrate the potential to serve as models for dissemination to other  
4 entities wishing to develop parent participation in schools; and

5 (2) Describe programs which serve families in greatest need of assistance.

6 SECTION 4. *Application.* – Each eligible applicant desiring to receive a grant under this  
7 Act shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing or  
8 accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require. Each such  
9 application shall:

10 (A) Describe the activities and services for which assistance is sought;

11 (B) Contain an assessment of the extent and quality of parent involvement in the school;

12 (C) Include clear, written objectives and desired outcomes for each year of the project;

13 (D) Contain assurances of frequent and regular communications between teachers and  
14 parents and between administrators and parents, including consideration of the  
15 specific language and literacy needs of the parents; and

16 (E) Contain such information as the Secretary may require to ensure compliance with  
17 the provisions of this Act.

18 SECTION 5. *Use of Funds.* – Each eligible applicant may use funds provided under this  
19 Act to:

20 (A) Provide for home activities where parents can reinforce skills learned at school;

21 (B) Provide parents with training to enable them to build positive relationships with their  
22 children and to communicate successfully with teachers and administrators; and

23 (C) Conduct regular and ongoing community outreach activities which develop for the  
24 community's schools.

25 SECTION 6. *Establishment of National Advisory Resource Center Concerning Parents*  
26 *as Partners in Learning.* – The Secretary shall establish and operate a National Advisory Center

1 for Parents as Partners in Learning (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Center”) within the  
2 Department of Education. The Center shall provide:

- 3 (A) Technical assistance in developing model Parents as Partners in Learning programs;
- 4 (B) Staff training for Parents as Partners in Learning programs; and
- 5 (C) Model materials for Parents as Partners in Learning program implementation.

6 SECTION 7. *Evaluation and Dissemination.* - The Secretary shall conduct an annual  
7 evaluation of grants made under this Act and shall disseminate such information.

8 SECTION 8. *Payments.* -

9 (A) *Government Funding.* - The Secretary shall pay each eligible applicant having an  
10 application approved under Section 4, the government share of the cost of the activities described  
11 in the application. The government share:

- 12 (1) For the first year in which the State receives funds under this Act shall be  
13 seventy five percent (75%);
- 14 (2) For the second such year shall be fifty percent (50%);
- 15 (3) For the third year and each succeeding year thereafter shall be thirty three and  
16 one third percent (33.3%); Provided, that government funding shall not exceed  
17 five (5) years for each program.

18 (B) *Additional Funding.* - The eligible applicant shall be responsible for securing the  
19 additional funding for the program from the private sector, whose contributions under this Act  
20 may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment or services.

21 SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* - To carry out the provisions of this Act, such sum as may  
22 be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the  
23 sum necessary for the continuous operation of the program shall be included in the annual  
24 appropriation for the Department of Education.

25 SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or  
26 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
27 valid and subsisting.

1           SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
2 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
3 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

4           SECTION 12. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
5 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,