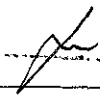


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

9 FEB -9 P2:50

SENATE
S.B. No. **3045**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution, Article II, Section 12 provides,

Section 12. The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception.

Stillbirths is a common tragic occurrence which can strike any pregnant woman from the lowest to the highest income bracket, from the educated to the less educated strata of society. In the Philippines, one in forty (1/40) pregnancies results in stillbirths and early neonatal deaths. This is relatively high compared to countries like the United States which records one stillbirth in one hundred fifteen deliveries (1/115).

There is a dearth of information available which can explain the occurrence of stillbirths which can happen even in seemingly normal and healthy pregnancies. This compounds the anguish caused by stillbirths to expecting parents and their family members who had no warning that such a tragedy would occur.

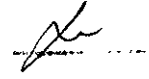
This bill directs the proper government agency to collect information on stillbirths on a national level and provides for information dissemination and research program for the formulation of risk reduction measures.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAAGO

9 FEB -9 P2:50

SENATE
S.B. No. **3045**

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL COLLECTION OF DATA ON STILLBIRTHS IN A
3 STANDARDIZED MANNER, PROVIDING FOR INFORMATION AND RESEARCH
4 PROGRAM ON STILLBIRTHS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
5

6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
7 *Congress assembled:*
8

9 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Stillbirth Awareness
10 and Research Act of 2009.”

11 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* -

12 (a) Statistics available from the National Statistics Office on stillbirths and early
13 neonatal deaths show that approximately one (1) in every forty (40) pregnancies
14 result in stillbirths. While there can be various possible causes of stillbirths such
15 as cord accidents, infections, genetic anomalies, among others, the incidence of
16 stillbirth remains unpredictable and occurs for no determinable medical reason.

17 Presently, risk reduction measures are not in place so as to protect expecting
18 parents from the emotional anguish caused by stillbirths and early neonatal
19 deaths.

20 (b) Therefore, a repository of data collected in a standard manner can provide useful
21 information for the study and analysis of stillbirths and for the formulation of
22 effective risk reduction measures.

23 (c) This act shall be in accord with the State policy to recognize the sanctity of family
24 life and to protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social

1 institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn
2 from conception.

3

4 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms
5 are defined:

6 (1) “DOH” – shall refer to the Department of Health.

7 (2) “PIA” – Philippine Information Agency

8 (3) “Stillbirth” – Stillbirths are fetal deaths in pregnancies lasting seven or more
9 months

10 SECTION 4. *National Stillbirth Registry* – The State shall establish a National
11 Stillbirth Registry, the custodian of which shall be the proper government agency
12 competent and able to maintain such national registry.

13 The National Stillbirth Registry shall serve the following purposes:

14 1. To provide a national repository for reporting and maintaining in a
15 standardized manner data on stillbirths;

16 2. To make such data available for research on the causes and prevention of
17 stillbirths;

18 3. The registry shall include information on the stillborn fetus and
19 information on the mother’s health and pregnancy condition.

20 4. Determination of standard stillbirth definition and protocol.

21 a. The Department of Health (DOH) shall provide for the standard
22 definition of stillbirth and a standard protocol for stillbirth data
23 collection.

24 b. The Department of Health shall ensure that the standard definition
25 of stillbirth and the standard protocol described above are

1 developed in a manner that ensures consultations with
2 representatives from health care organizations, local government,
3 and other interested parties.

4 SECTION 5. National Public Awareness Campaign

5 The Department of Health (DOH) in cooperation with the Philippine Information
6 Agency (PIA) shall carry out a national campaign to increase public awareness and
7 knowledge of stillbirths.

8 Activities under the national campaign shall include:

- 9 1. The dissemination of information on measures for mothers to maintain a
10 healthy pregnancy and assess fetal health;
- 11 2. The dissemination of information on good prenatal care practices such as
12 not drinking alcohol or smoking; and
- 13 3. The promotion of fetal movement awareness and taking proactive steps to
14 monitor a baby's movement beginning at approximately 28 weeks into the
15 pregnancy.

16 SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions
17 of this Act, are hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

18 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid
19 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall
20 remain valid and subsisting.

21 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
22 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to,
23 or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended
24 accordingly.

1 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
2 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

3

4 Approved,

5 /ctr