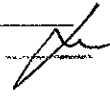


9 MAY 18 P4:07

SENATE
S. No. 3252

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

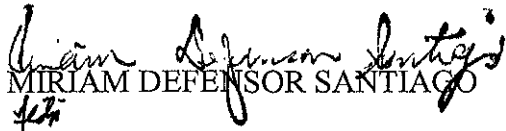
The Constitution, Article 2, section 12 states: “The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception. xxx”

The World Health Organization recently released a scientific-based evidenced report entitled “Meeting Women's Contraceptive Needs in the Philippines”. Among the key points stated by the report are as follows:

- Without contraceptive use in the Philippines, there would be 1.3 million more unplanned births, 0.9 million more induced abortions and 3,500 more maternal deaths each year.
- More than half of all pregnancies in the Philippines are unintended, with the highest proportions in the Cordillera Administrative Region, Central and Eastern Visayas, and Caraga.
- Three in 10 Filipino women at risk for unintended pregnancy do not practice contraception. These women account for nearly seven in 10 unintended pregnancies.
- Poor women are especially likely to need assistance in preventing unintended pregnancy. The 35% of women aged 15 – 49 who are poor account for 53% of unmet need for contraception.¹

¹ <http://72.14.235.132/search?q=cache:x-TwuiES9Y8J:www.up.edu.ph/upforum.php%3Fi%3D210%26+unintended+pregnancy+in+the+philippines+abortion&cd=3&hl=tl&ct=clnk&gl=ph>

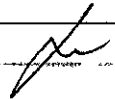
In the Philippines, the alleged root cause of abortion is unintended pregnancy. Hence, expectant mothers should be aware of the services available, during and after pregnancy. This bill seeks to encourage and assist women to carry their children to live birth by providing services, during and after pregnancy, which will alleviate the financial, social, emotional, and other difficulties that may otherwise lead to abortion.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

9 MAY 18 P4:07

SENATE
S. B. No. 3252

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RECEIVED BY 

1 AN ACT
2 ESTABLISHING A PREGNANT SUPPORT SERVICES OFFICE
3 UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Care for Life Act of 2009”.

7 SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

8 a. Pregnancy support services refers to services offered by the government, faith-based,
9 and other providers, during and after pregnancy, that will encourage and assist
10 women to carry their children to live birth by alleviating financial, social, emotional,
11 and other difficulties that may otherwise lead to abortion, including the following:

- 12 1. Material assistance, including maternity and baby clothing, diapers, baby food
13 (including formula), and baby furniture.
- 14 2. Referrals for adoption, job training, housing, assistance with domestic
15 violence, and food stamps and other governmental assistance.
- 16 3. Crisis hotlines, including for violence or suicide prevention.
- 17 4. Pro-bono obstetric and prenatal care services for women intending to carry
18 their children to live birth, including services during pregnancy and following
19 childbirth, and neonatal care services, including referrals for such services.
- 20 5. Pro-bono legal services to assist women who wish to carry their children to
21 live birth and parents with newborn children.
- 22 6. Child care services.

1 7. Services to assist parents to care for, and prepare to care for, a child with
2 Down Syndrome or another prenatally diagnosed condition, and to facilitate
3 the adoption of such children as appropriate.

- 4 8. Life skills mentoring, including to enhance the following competencies:
- 5 i. Strengthening marriage.
 - 6 ii. Communication and conflict management for building healthy
7 marriages and families.
 - 8 iii. Decision-making and relationship-building skills prior to marriage.
 - 9 iv. High-risk behavior awareness.

10 9. Life-skills counseling.

11 b. Secretary refers to the Department of Health Secretary;

12 SECTION 3. *Pregnant Support Services Office.* – The Department of Health shall
13 establish an Office of Pregnant Support Services which shall encourage and assist pregnant
14 women to carry their children to live birth by providing services, during and after pregnancy, that
15 will alleviate the financial, social, emotional and other difficulties that may otherwise lead to an
16 abortion.

17 SECTION 4. *Pregnancy Care Information Service.* – The Secretary shall develop and
18 maintain a comprehensive, publicly accessible, and user friendly database, to be known as the
19 Pregnancy Care Information Service, to serve as a consolidated source of information on
20 pregnancy support services. Further, it shall include pertinent information on the providers of
21 the pregnancy support services listed in the database.

22 SECTION 5. *Annual Conference.* – The Secretary shall conduct an annual nationwide
23 best practices conference, gathering experts from State and local governments, prenatal and
24 parenting care centers, and other relevant facilities to:

- 25 a. Share information on best practices in pregnancy support services; and
- 26 b. Identify and address key burdens or adverse circumstances facing pregnant women.

1 SECTION 6. *Public Outreach.* – The Secretary shall develop and implement a public
2 outreach campaign to provide information on pregnancy support services to vulnerable women,
3 including those in low-income, urban and rural areas.

4 SECTION 7. *Parental Care Grants to Institution of Higher Education.* – The Secretary
5 may award competitive grants to institutions of higher education for the exclusive purpose of
6 providing pregnancy support services, which may include:

- 7 a. Employing a registered nurse, physician assistant or physician with specialized
8 training in prenatal care.
- 9 b. Establishing and maintaining student outreach programs to provide prenatal care,
10 parenting assistance, and student housing assistance to the institution’s pregnant and
11 parenting students.

12 SECTION 8. *Annual Report.* – The Secretary shall submit an annual report to Congress
13 on the activities, the funds expended on such activities, and the results achieved through such
14 activities.

15 SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
16 unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
17 valid and subsisting.

18 SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
19 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent
20 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

21 SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
22 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

23 Approved,

/fldp