

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 3360

Introduced by Senator Manny B. Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The World Health Organization defines mental health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease". It is related to the promotion of well-being, the prevention of mental disorders, and the treatment and rehabilitation of people affected by mental disorders."

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) promotes the concept of mental health care as an integral part of primary health care services.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) of the United States, mental illness usually begins early in life. In addition, between 8 and 13 million children and teenagers have a mental health problem at any given time, as revealed in an article by the U.S. News & World Report. And sadly, two-thirds of them are not getting treatment for their mental health issues.

Early intervention is imperative to give children the best developmental, behavioral and adaptive outcomes that will allow them to function properly in society despite their limitations.

The proposed legislation aims to put in place a comprehensive and coordinated children's mental health policy that would provide the directions and interventions that must be undertaken by and among concerned agencies in an effective and timely manner. This early intervention approach would not only improve the condition of children with mental disorders, but also lessen reliance on special education and developmental disability services that prove to be costly.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


MANNY VILLAR

SENATE

S.B. No. 3360

Introduced by SENATOR MANNY VILLAR

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE EARLY
DETECTION AND TIMELY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH
MENTAL ILLNESS

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Early Detection and
2 Intervention Services for Children with Mental Illness Act.”

3 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to adopt an
4 integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to
5 make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at
6 affordable cost.

7 **Section 3. Definition of Terms.** The following terms shall mean:

8 a. **Mental Illness** shall mean any of various psychiatric conditions, usually
9 characterized by impairment of a child’s normal cognitive, emotional, or behavioral
10 functioning, and caused by physiological or psychosocial factors.

11 b. **Intervention** shall mean educational methods and positive behavioral support
12 strategies designed to improve the condition of a child suffering from mental
13 disorder.

14 **Section 4.** The Department of Health shall undertake to develop a program
15 providing for comprehensive accessible and affordable early mental health detection
16 and timely intervention services for children. The objectives of this program includes but
17 not limited to the following:

18 a. To increase awareness, reduce barriers to screening and diagnosis, promote
19 evidence-based interventions for children with mental disorder or other
20 developmental disabilities.

21 b. To build a qualified and adequately trained workforce prepared to provide mental
22 health services for children and their families.

1 c. To conduct a comprehensive, multi-faceted public awareness campaign to
2 reduce the stigma of mental illness and educate families, the general public, and
3 other key audiences about the benefits of children's social and emotional
4 development, and how to access services.

5 d. To create a quality-driven children's mental health system with shared
6 accountability among agencies and programs that conducts ongoing needs
7 assessments, uses outcome indicators and benchmarks to measure progress,
8 and implements quality data tracking and reporting system.

9 **Section 5.** The Department of Health shall promulgate the necessary rules and
10 regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

11 **Section 6. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid
12 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
13 remain valid and subsisting.

14 **Section 7. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
15 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to,
16 or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended
17 accordingly.

18 **Section 8. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
19 its complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

20 Approved,

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