

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



13 JUL -8 AM 11:57

SENATE  
S. No. 579

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Aggressive behavior in early childhood is the single best predictor of aggression in later life. In the U.S., studies have shown that children who experienced violence as victims or witnesses are at increased risk of becoming violent themselves.

In the U.S., research has demonstrated that aggression is primarily a learned behavior that develops through observation, imitation, and direct experience. Early childhood offers a critical period for overcoming risk for violent behavior and providing support for pro-social behavior. Primary prevention can be effective. When preschool teachers teach young children interpersonal problem-solving skills and other forms of conflict resolution, children are *less* likely to demonstrate problem behaviors. Violence prevention programs for very young children yield a multitude of benefits - by providing health and stability to the individual child and the child's family, and by reducing expenditures for medical care, special education, and involvement with the judicial system.

This bill seeks to provide training in violence prevention to professionals and educators who work with children.<sup>1</sup>

*ocs.*  
*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

<sup>1</sup> This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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1 AN ACT  
2 TO PROVIDE TRAINING ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION TO PROFESSIONALS WHO  
3 WORK WITH CHILDREN

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Violence Prevention Training  
5 for Early Childhood Educators Act."

6 SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act, the term:

7 (A) "At-risk children" means children who have been affected by violence through direct  
8 exposure to abuse, other domestic violence, or violence in the community;

9 (B) "Early childhood education training program" means a program that -

10 (1) Trains individuals to work with young children in early child development  
11 programs or elementary schools;

12 (2) Provides professional development to individuals working in early child  
13 development programs or elementary schools;

14 (3) Provides training to become an early childhood education teacher, an  
15 elementary school teacher, a school counselor, or a child care provider; and

16 (4) Leads to a bachelor's degree or an associate's degree, a certificate for  
17 working with young children, such as a Child Psychology degree or an equivalent  
18 credential, or, in the case of an individual with such a degree - certificate, or credential.

19 (C) "Violence prevention" means -

- 1 (1) Preventing violent behavior in children;  
2 (2) Identifying and preventing violent behavior in at-risk children; or  
3 (3) Identifying and ameliorating violent behavior in children who act out  
4 violently.

5 (D) "School" means a public elementary school;

6 (E) "Students" mean public elementary students;

7 (F) "DepEd" means the Department of Education; and

8 (G) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Education.

9 SECTION 3. *Program Authorized.* -

10 (A) *Grant Authority.* - The Department of Education (DepEd) is authorized to award  
11 grants to public elementary schools that carry out early childhood education training programs  
12 and have applications approved under section 4 to enable the school to provide violence  
13 prevention training as part of the early childhood education training program.

14 (B) *Amount.* - The Secretary of Education shall determine the amount of grant under this  
15 Act.

16 (C) *Duration.* - The Secretary shall award a grant under this Act for a period of not less  
17 than three (3) years and not more than five (5) years.

18 SECTION 4. *Application.* -

19 (A) *Application Required.* - Each school desiring a grant under this Act shall submit to  
20 the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information  
21 as the Secretary may require.

22 (B) *Contents.* - Each application shall -

23 (1) Describe the violence prevention training activities and services for which  
24 assistance is sought;

25 (2) Contain a comprehensive plan for the activities and services, including a  
26 description of:

- 1 (a) The goals of the violence prevention training program;  
2 (b) The profile of the teachers, counselors, and other child care providers;  
3 (c) The curriculum and training described in the plan; and  
4 (d) The methods for assessing the success of the violence prevention  
5 training program.

6 (3) Contain an assurance that the school has the capacity to implement the plan;

7 and

8 (C) Contain an assurance that the plan was developed in consultation with the  
9 government and/or private agencies or non-government organizations that will assist the school  
10 in carrying out the plan.

11 SECTION 5. *Selection Priorities.* - The Secretary shall give priority to awarding grants to  
12 schools carrying out violence prevention programs that include one or more of the following  
13 components:

14 (A) Preparation to engage in family support, such as parent education, service referral,  
15 and literacy training;

16 (B) Preparation to engage in community outreach or collaboration with other services in  
17 the community;

18 (C) Preparation to use conflict resolution training with at-risk children;

19 (D) Preparation to work in economically disadvantaged communities;

20 (E) Recruitment of economically disadvantaged students;

21 (F) Carrying out programs of demonstrated effectiveness in the type of training for which  
22 assistance is sought.

23 SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* - Such sums as may be necessary to carry out this program  
24 are hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

1           SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Secretary is hereby authorized  
2 and directed to adopt a system to implement and carry out the provisions of this Act. The  
3 Secretary shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the rules and  
4 regulations necessary to carry out and enforce the provisions of this Act.

5           SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
6 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision shall remain valid and subsisting.

7           SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
8 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
9 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

10          SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
11 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,