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SENATE
S. No. 1786

RECEIVED BY: *Ju*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The abuse of illegal drugs and alcohol has been the cause of hundreds of accidents, crimes and deaths each year. In some cases, sharing of drug paraphernalia can cause the spread of a number of communicable diseases, including AIDS and Hepatitis C.

In Article 33 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, all states agree to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to prevent children from being exposed to the illicit production and trafficking of such substances. To effectively fulfill this obligation, the government must take cognizance of the fact that there are certain youth groups more vulnerable or susceptible to substance abuse. These youth groups may not have any access to formal institutional structures precisely because of their marginalized status. In order to reach out to these disenfranchised sectors of the youth, community-based programs which target these high-risk youth must be put in place. More often than not nongovernmental organizations have the experience and capacity to work at the grass-roots level.

This bill mandates the Department of Health to make grants that would assist such organizations in this noble cause, so that the youth may be saved from the debilitating effects of substance abuse and become competent partners in development.*

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
all

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



SENATE
S. No. 1786

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AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL
ABUSE AMONG HIGH RISK YOUTH

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Saving Young Substance
Abusers Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in
nation-building and shall promote their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social
wellbeing.

SECTION 3. *"High Risk Youth" Defined.* -For purposes of this Act, the term "high risk
youth" means an individual who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) years, who is at high
risk of becoming, or who has become, a drug abuser or an alcohol abuser, and who -

- (A) Is identified as a child of a substance abuser;
- (B) Is a victim of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse;
- (C) Does not attend school;
- (D) Has become pregnant;
- (E) Is economically disadvantaged;
- (F) Has committed a violent or delinquent act;
- (G) Has experienced mental health problems;
- (H) Has attempted suicide;

- 1 (I) Has experienced long-term physical pain due to injury;
- 2 (J) Has experienced chronic failure in school;
- 3 (K) Is from a broken family;
- 4 (L) Is a child laborer;
- 5 (M) Is a street child or street gang member; or
- 6 (N) Lives in conflict areas.

7 SECTION 4. *Grants to Public and Nonprofit Private Entities.* - The Secretary of Health
8 shall make grants to public and nonprofit private entities for projects to demonstrate effective
9 models for the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of drug abuse and alcohol abuse among
10 high risk youth.

11 SECTION 5. *Priority of Projects.* -

12 (A) In making grants for drug abuse and alcohol abuse prevention projects, the
13 Secretary shall give priority to applications for projects directed at children of substance abusers,
14 children at risk of abuse or neglect, preschool children, children at risk of dropping out of school,
15 children at risk of becoming adolescent parents, children who do not attend school, child
16 laborers, street children, and children who are at risk of being unemployed.

17 (B) In making grants for drug abuse and alcohol abuse treatment and rehabilitation
18 projects, the Secretary shall give priority to projects which address the relationship between drug
19 abuse or alcohol abuse and physical child abuse, sexual child abuse, emotional child abuse,
20 dropping out of school, unemployment, delinquency, pregnancy, violence, suicide, or mental
21 health problems.

22 (C) In making grants under this Act, the Secretary shall give priority to applications
23 from community based organizations for projects:

24 (1) To develop innovative models with multiple coordinated services for the
25 prevention or for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abuse or alcohol
26 abuse by high risk youth.

1 (2) To demonstrate effective models with multiple coordinated services which
2 may be replicated and which are for the prevention or for the treatment
3 and rehabilitation of drug abuse or alcohol abuse by high risk youth.

4 (3) That employ research designs adequate for evaluating the effectiveness of
5 the program.

6 SECTION 6. *Strategies for Reducing Use.* - The Secretary shall ensure that projects
7 under Section 4 include strategies for reducing the use of alcoholic beverages and tobacco
8 products by individuals to whom it is unlawful to sell or distribute such beverages or products.

9 SECTION 7. *Equal Distribution of Grants.* - To the extent feasible, the Secretary shall
10 ensure the equal distribution of grants under this Act among urban and rural areas.

11 SECTION 8. *Application for Grants.* - In order to receive a grant for a project under this
12 Act for a fiscal year, a public or nonprofit private entity shall submit an application to the
13 Secretary. The Secretary may provide the provincial governor or the city or municipal mayor the
14 opportunity to review and comment on such application. Such application shall be in such form,
15 shall contain such information, and shall be submitted at such time as the Secretary may by
16 regulation prescribe.

17 SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
18 unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
19 valid and subsisting.

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

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

Approved,