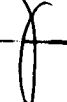


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'16 JUL 21 P2:59

SENATE
S. No. 831

RECORDED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

**AN ACT
TO GUARANTEE THE HEALTH AND NUTRITION OF CHILDREN PROTECTING
THEM FROM MALNUTRITION BY ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE
CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAM, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Explanatory Note

Our children are considered as this nation's best investment. It is also said time and again, that the future of this country shall be shaped by the children of today. It is therefore important that our children are provided with the best kind of care, protection and support that will guarantee their health, nutrition and well-being.

The recent report of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), however, stated that Filipino children are more malnourished today than ever.¹ The same report indicated that 26.2% of Filipino children aged zero (0) to two (2) are suffering from chronic malnutrition, a rate highest in the last 10 years. Stunting rate among children under five (5) years old was at 33.5%, higher than that of last year at 30.5%. Ten percent (10%) of children with cases of stunted growth also grew at an average of 40% in just a span of two years, from 2013 to 2015.²

Malnutrition and under-nutrition among pregnant women was also high at 25% in 2013.³ This means that even before the children comes out from their mother's womb, they are already malnourished or undernourished. The chances are, they will also suffer from chronic malnutrition and stunted growth as they grow up and will face greater risk of getting ill in the future.

This bill aims to address the problem of malnutrition and under-nutrition among our Filipino children by establishing a comprehensive children's health and nutrition program. It will institute a First 1000 Days Program at the barangay level to cater to the health and nutrition of mothers and their children from conception up to 1000 days or (2) years of age, extendable to another year until the children reached the age of three (3) by providing counselling and instructions to mothers and feeding in the form of milk and food for their children.

¹ See "National Survey: Chronic Malnutrition in PH Worst in 10 Years", Rappler, April 21, 2016. Accessed at <http://www.rappler.com/move-ph/issues/hunger/130046-philippines-chronic-malnutrition> on July 11, 2016.

² *Ibid.*

³ See "Latest PH Nutrition Survey Reveals Little Progress in Beating Hunger", Rappler, September 1, 2015. Accessed at <http://www.rappler.com/move-ph/issues/hunger/61824-2013-national-nutrition-survey> on July 11, 2016.

This bill will likewise institutionalize the existing feeding programs of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Education (DepEd) for children aged three (3) to five (5) and 5 to twelve (12), respectively. The programs provide meals to children in Day Care Centers and public schools for a period of not less than 120 days per year to address malnutrition and short-term hunger.

This bill also expands the feeding programs by including complementary activities for children to include hygiene and healthy lifestyle and counselling for parents so that the promotion of health and nutrition will become their way of life even outside the schools.

The funds for the implementation of the program shall be included in the budget of the Department of Health, DSWD and DepEd under the General Appropriations Act.

It is hoped that through this bill, the government will be able to guarantee the health and nutrition of all Filipino children as the nation prepares them to becoming the future movers and leaders of this country.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.




RALPH G. RECTO

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

'16 JUL 21 P3:00

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 831

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

AN ACT
TO GUARANTEE THE HEALTH AND NUTRITION OF CHILDREN, PROTECTING
THEM FROM MALNUTRITION BY ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE
CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAM, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “*Children’s Health and*
2 *Nutrition Program Act of 2016*”.

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared as the policy of the State to
4 guarantee the right of children to proper health and nutrition to ensure that they will grow up
5 healthy to eventually become productive members of the society. Towards this end, the State
6 shall establish a comprehensive health and nutrition program that will prevent malnutrition
7 among Filipino children starting from conception to childhood.

8 **SEC. 3. Children’s Health and Nutrition Program.** – There shall be established a
9 comprehensive Children’s Health and Nutrition Program that will promote the health and
10 nutrition of Filipino children from conception to childhood. The program shall be geared towards
11 the prevention of malnutrition among Filipino children and shall have the following components:

12 a. **First 1000 Days Program.** – The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with
13 the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Social
14 Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Science and Technology
15 (DOST) thru the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) and the Local
16 Government Units (LGUs) concerned shall develop a *First-1000 Days* health and
17 nutrition program for pregnant and lactating women and their newborn children up to
18 1000 days old, in every barangay: *Provided*, That after the first 1000 days, the
19 program shall extend for another year until the children reached the age of three (3):
20 *Provided, further*, That the program shall include maternal and child health care
21 services such as counselling and family development sessions: *Provided, even further*,
22 That the program shall also include necessary feeding in forms of milk and
23 complementary food that will prevent malnutrition.

1 b. *Supplementary Feeding Program for Day Care Children.* – The DSWD, in
2 coordination with the LGUs concerned shall institute a *Supplementary Feeding*
3 *Program* for children with ages three (3) to five (5) in all Day Care Centers
4 nationwide: *Provided*, That the program shall include the provision of one (1) hot
5 healthy meal to all children in the Day Care Centers for a period of not less than 120
6 days in a year: *Provided, further*, That the DSWD in the preparation of children’s
7 meals shall work in collaboration with the parents organized under the Day Care
8 Center Parents Group: *Provided, even further*, That the children’s weight and height
9 shall be monitored prior and after the feeding cycle to track their progress and assess
10 the efficacy of the program: *Provided, finally*, That the program shall include
11 instruction and counselling to parents on how to attain healthy living at home.

12 c. *School-Based Feeding Program.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) through the
13 Health and Nutrition Center (NHC) shall implement a *School-Based Feeding Program*
14 that will address malnutrition, under nutrition and short-term hunger among public
15 school children with ages six (6) to twelve (12): *Provided*, That the program shall
16 include the provision of one (1) hot healthy meal to all public school children for a
17 period of not less than 120 days in a year: *Provided, further*, That the DepEd shall
18 monitor the public school’s compliance with the program guidelines, including the
19 procurement process and health and nutritional assessment: *Provided, even further*,
20 That complementary activities such as deworming, food production, waste segregation
21 and composting, good grooming and hygiene, productivity, life and values
22 development trainings shall also be conducted in public schools: *Provided, finally*,
23 That the program shall include instruction and counselling to parents on how to attain
24 healthy living at home.

25 **SEC. 4. *Appropriation.*** – The fund requirement necessary to implement this Act shall be
26 included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) under the budget of the DOH, DSWD and
27 DepEd.

28 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within ninety days (90) after the
29 effectivity of this Act, the DOH, DSWD, DepEd, DILG, DOST and the Department of Budget
30 and Management shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation
31 of this Act.

32 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts
33 thereof inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or
34 modified accordingly.

35 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
36 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

Approved,