
Introduced by SENATOR ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS-BARAQUEL

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 8972 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ACT PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SOLO PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Raising a child is daunting, but raising a child alone carries a specific set of challenges and difficulties. In 2015, the Philippine Statistics Authority estimated that there were about three million solo parents — two million of whom were female. The Federation of Solo Parents has a member base of 80,000.

While significant inroads have been made by virtue of Republic Act No. 8972 or the Solo Parents' Welfare Act, there are still many things that need to be done and many reforms that can still be undertaken to alleviate the plight of solo parents, and to mitigate the disadvantages that children in solo parent households have to live with.

This bill introduces many innovations:

- It expands the definition of solo parents, notably to include spouses of low and semi-skilled overseas Filipino workers, who are away from the Philippines for an unbroken period of one (1) year;
- It provides discounts to solo parents and their children for medical, educational and other basic needs, including tuition fees, as well as discounts on recreational activities;
- It provides for the creation of a Solo Parents Affairs Office in local government units;
- It mandates the creation of daycare facilities in companies with more than 100 employees.

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANA THERESIA "RISA" HONTIVEROS BARAQUEL