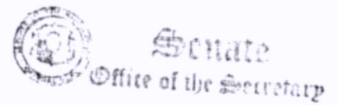


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )



'18 AUG 28 P5:20

SENATE  
S.B. NO. 1955

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PREGNANCY SUPPORT SERVICE OFFICE  
UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 12 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

"The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception. The natural and primary right and duty of parents in the rearing of the youth for civic efficiency and development of moral character shall receive the support of the Government"

The proposed bill seeks to provide expectant mothers assistance by providing available services during and after pregnancy, which alleviates the social, emotional, and financial difficulties they experience among others that lead to abortion.

MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY  
Senator



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UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

*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 “Care for Life Act.”  
2  
3 Sec. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purposes of this Act, the term:  
4 A. “Pregnancy support services” refers to services offered by the  
5 government, faith-based, and other providers, during and after  
6 pregnancy, that will encourage and assist women to carry their  
7 children to live birth by alleviating financial, social, emotional, and  
8 other difficulties that may otherwise lead to abortion, including the  
9 following:  
10 1. Material assistance, including maternity and baby clothing,  
11 diapers, baby food (including formula), and baby furniture.  
12 2. Referrals for adoption, job training, housing, assistance with  
13 domestic violence, and food stamps and other governmental  
14 assistance.  
15 3. Crisis hotlines, including for violence or suicide prevention.  
16 4. Pro-bono obstetric and prenatal care services for women  
17 intending to carry their children to live birth, including

- 1 service during pregnancy and following childbirth, and  
2 neonatal care service, including referrals for such services.
- 3 5. Pro-bono legal services to assist women who wish to carry  
4 their children to live birth and parents with newborn  
5 children.
- 6 6. Child care services.
- 7 7. Services to assist parents to care for, and prepare to care  
8 for, a child with Down Syndrome or another prenatally  
9 diagnosed condition, and to facilitate the adoption of such  
10 children as appropriate.
- 11 8. Life skills mentoring, including to enhance the following  
12 competencies:
- 13 i. Strengthening marriage.
- 14 ii. Communication and conflict management for building  
15 healthy marriages and families.
- 16 iii. Decision-making and relationship-building skills prior  
17 to marriage.
- 18 iv. High-risk behavior awareness.
- 19 9. Life-skills counseling.

20 B. "Secretary" refers to the Department of Health Secretary

21

22 *Sec. 3. Pregnancy Support Services Office.* – The Department of Health  
23 shall establish an Office of Pregnancy Support Services which shall encourage  
24 and assist pregnant women to carry their children to live birth by providing  
25 services, during and after pregnancy, that will alleviate the financial, social,  
26 emotional and other difficulties that may otherwise lead to an abortion.

27

28 *Sec. 4. Pregnancy Care Information Service.* – The Secretary shall develop  
29 and maintain a comprehensive, publicly accessible, and user friendly database, to  
30 be known as the Pregnancy Care Information Service, to serve as a consolidated

1 source of information on pregnancy support services. Further, it shall include  
2 pertinent information on the providers of the pregnancy support services listed in  
3 the database.

4

5       Sec. 5. *Annual Conference.* – The Secretary shall conduct an annual  
6 nationwide best practices conference, gathering experts from State and local  
7 governments, prenatal and parenting care centers, and other relevant facilities  
8 to:

- 9           A. Share information on best practices in pregnancy support services;  
10           and  
11           B. Identify and address key burdens or adverse circumstances facing  
12           pregnant women.

13

14       Sec. 6. *Public Outreach.* – The Secretary shall develop and implement a  
15 public outreach campaign to provide information on pregnancy support services  
16 to vulnerable women, including those in low-income, urban and rural areas.

17

18       Sec. 7. *Parental Care Grants to Institution of Higher Education.* – The  
19 Secretary may award competitive grants to institutions of higher education for  
20 the exclusive purpose of providing pregnancy support services, which may  
21 include:

- 22           A. Employing a registered nurse, physician assistant or physician with  
23           specialized training in prenatal care.  
24           B. Establishing and maintaining student outreach programs to provide  
25           prenatal care, parenting assistance, and student housing assistance  
26           to the institution's pregnant and parenting students.

27

28       Sec. 8. *Annual Report.* – The Secretary shall submit an annual report to  
29 Congress on the activities, the funds expended on such activities, and the results  
30 achieved through such activities.

1

2           Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or  
3 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other  
4 provisions hereof.

5

6           Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or  
7 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are  
8 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

9

10           Sec. 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
11 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general  
12 circulation.

Approved,