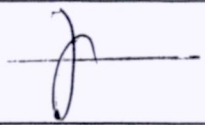


**SENATE**

S.B. No. 414

'19 JUL 11 P4:42

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

RECEIVED BY: 

**AN ACT PROVIDING A NATIONAL POLICY ON THE PREVENTION OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them." The Constitution further provides that the government should provide essential goods, health, and other social services available to all at an affordable cost and the promotion of general welfare for the people.

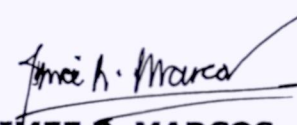
However, despite the enactment of R.A. No. 10354 or otherwise known as the "The Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012" and the presence of sexual education in classroom settings, the issue on teenage pregnancy is still rampant.

According to the 2018 World Bank report entitled, "Making Growth Work for the Poor," Filipino women in the poorest quintile have more than five children on average and the fertility rate has been steady in the past decades. *One in ten girls age 15-19 is either pregnant or already a mother.* An increase in adolescent pregnancy means higher maternal and infant mortality, as well as more school dropouts.

Another measure to be addressed is for households to meet their need for contraception. A recent study based in Manila showed that reducing access to contraception increase family size and decrease education attainment.

In 2016, as reported by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), adolescent fertility rates have declined in the last two decades in all countries, with the exception of the Philippines, where there have been little changes. On a lighter note, based on the 2017 National Demographic Health Survey, the country's teenage pregnancy had declined to 47 live births per 1,000 women aged 15-19. Nevertheless, while figures have declined, the actual number of teenage women getting pregnant remains high – *24 babies are born to teenage mothers every hour in the Philippines*, according to the Chair of Democratic Socialist Women of the Philippines, Elizabeth Angsioco.

Thus, given the high number of teenage pregnancies in the Philippines, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS**  
Senator

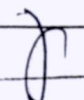
**SENATE**  
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**AN ACT PROVIDING A NATIONAL POLICY ON THE PREVENTION OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Teenage Pregnancy*  
2 *Prevention Act of 2019.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to promote and  
4 protect the health of the people, instill health consciousness among them, and  
5 endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the  
6 people at an affordable cost. The increasing number of teenage pregnancy pose a  
7 serious threat to the health and welfare of the Filipinos, especially to adolescent  
8 women, which should be given prompt attention by the government.

9 Sec. 3. *Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Council.* – There is hereby created a  
10 "Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Council," hereinafter referred to as the "Council" which  
11 shall be the body that will oversee and monitor the implementation of this Act. It shall  
12 be composed of the following:

- 13 (a) Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd);  
14 (b) Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH);  
15 (c) Executive Director of the Commission on Population (POPCOM);  
16 (d) One (1) representative of the Philippine National Police (PNP);  
17 (e) One (1) representative of the League of Provinces;  
18 (f) One (1) representative of the League of Cities; and  
19 (g) One (1) representative of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK).

20 The Chairperson of the Council shall be the Secretary of Health and the  
21 Executive Director of the POPCOM shall serve as the Secretary General.

22

1 A Sub-Council for every province and highly-urbanized city shall also be  
2 established which shall be composed of the following:

- 3 (a) Governor or mayor, as the case may be;
- 4 (b) One (1) representative of the DepEd;
- 5 (c) One (1) representative of the DOH;
- 6 (d) One (1) representative of the PNP; and
- 7 (e) One (1) representative of the SK.

8 *Sec. 4. Age and Development Appropriate Sexual Health Education.* – The  
9 Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Council, shall develop and  
10 promote educational standards, modules, and materials to promote comprehensive and  
11 responsive sexual education, that shall be mandatory, to adolescents, aged 8-21 years  
12 of age, in schools, communities, health units, and youth institutions. The Council shall  
13 ensure that it shall be medically accurate, rights-based, inclusive, and non-  
14 discriminatory towards lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders, intersex, or queers  
15 (LGBTIQs) adolescents.

16 The Sexual Health Education Curriculum shall include, but not limited to: human  
17 sexuality, consent, adolescent reproductive health, contraceptive use, disease  
18 prevention, especially on sexually transmitted diseases and infections, hygiene, health  
19 and nutrition, healthy lifestyles, gender sensitivity, gender equality and equity, teen  
20 dating, prevention of gender and sexual invoice, digital citizenship and issues like  
21 pornography, and life skills. The Curriculum shall be standardized and implemented in  
22 all public and private basic education institutions. The inclusion of the Curriculum shall  
23 be part of the criteria for the accreditation requirement of DepEd's Philippine  
24 Accreditation System for Basic Education (PASBE).

25 *Provided that,* the Council shall undertake annual reviews to determine the  
26 effectiveness of the Curriculum and to make revisions, as they may deem necessary, to  
27 enhance the implementation of the Act.

28 *Sec. 5. Family Planning Methods and Supplies.* – Modern family planning  
29 methods, hormonal contraceptives, intrauterine devices, injectables and other safe,  
30 legal, non-abortifacient and effective family planning products and supplies shall be  
31 easily accessible to adolescents in public hospitals, health centers, rural health units,  
32 and other places deemed appropriate and necessary by the Council.

33 *Sec. 6. Prohibition on the Consumption and Sale of Alcohol to Minors.* – The  
34 Philippine National Police (PNP) shall ensure that all laws and ordinances, such as P.D.  
35 No. 1619 which penalizes the unauthorized sale to minors of liquors, and ordinances

1 imposing curfew, among others, shall be strictly enforced to protect the welfare of the  
2 adolescents.

3       *Sec. 7. Guidance Counselling.* – The DepEd shall ensure that all public and  
4 private education institutions shall have at least two (2) guidance counsellors to provide  
5 adolescent pregnant mothers a person to talk to in relation to their psychological,  
6 emotional, and social well-being, such as pregnancy and abortion, among others, which  
7 shall be considered as confidential and sensitive matters.

8       *Sec. 8. Peer Counselling and Support Group.* – The SK, in every barangay, shall  
9 provide assistance and a support group to adolescents, especially those with absentee  
10 parents; provide assistance to adolescent pregnant mothers, including confirmation  
11 through pregnancy tests; and establish a hotline number where calls can be made  
12 which shall remain strictly confidential.

13       For purposes of this Act, the support group shall refer to three (3) or more  
14 persons, including members from the SK, who can mutually share personal experiences  
15 and give care, encouragement, or advice to each other.

16       *Sec. 9. Pre-natal, Delivery, and Post-natal Care.* – All pregnant adolescents,  
17 especially the poor and hard-to-reach groups, shall have access to skilled care and  
18 health care requirements, such as: regular check-ups, vitamins, starter kits, among  
19 others, throughout their pregnancy, delivery, and post-natal periods. In order to ensure  
20 compliance on regular check-ups, a maternity health card shall be issued by health care  
21 workers to expectant adolescent mothers to monitor their current condition.

22       Health care workers shall strive to provide adolescent pregnant mothers with  
23 birth plans that detail their intended place of birth, type of delivery, availability of  
24 transport to nearby or chosen health care institutions, and respective costs. *Provided*  
25 *that*, special care shall be given to young pregnant mothers all throughout their  
26 pregnancy. *Provided further that*, special help desks for adolescent pregnant women  
27 shall be made available to all public and private health care institutions to ensure safe  
28 labor and delivery.

29       Workshops, classes, and seminars for first-time parents shall be provided. These  
30 shall include, but not be limited to: infant care and feeding, positive discipline,  
31 responsible parenthood, and safe sex practices which shall be made available free-of-  
32 charge.

33       *Sec. 10. Social Protection for Adolescent Mothers.* – No female student shall be  
34 forced to take a leave, be suspended, expelled, or denied admission in any educational  
35 institution solely on the grounds of pregnancy. Discriminatory acts against adolescent

1 mothers, in accordance and in violation of R.A. No. 9262 otherwise known as the "Anti-  
2 Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004" shall also be strictly enforced.

3       Sec. 11. *Livelihood Assistance.* – The DepEd and Technical Education and Skills  
4 Development Authority (TESDA) shall coordinate with each other to provide free  
5 workshops, classes, seminars, and other online programs for adolescent mothers on  
6 livelihood programs and activities such as weaving, cookery, bread and pastry  
7 production course, and housekeeping course, among others.

8       Sec. 12. *Back-to-School Program.* – Education institutions shall be mandated to  
9 establish support mechanisms that will encourage adolescent mothers to return back to  
10 education institutions. *Provided that,* internet-based courses shall be made accessible as  
11 an option. These institutions shall ascertain that in-school day-care and breastfeeding  
12 stations are available within their premises.

13       Sec. 13. *Foster Care or Adoption.* – The Department of Social Welfare and  
14 Development (DSWD) shall provide assistance to adolescent mothers who may decide  
15 to put their child to foster care or adoption. The consent of the mother and one (1)  
16 parent or guardian of the mother shall be needed for the validity of the foster care or  
17 adoption.

18       Social workers and guidance counsellors shall provide support and advice to the  
19 adolescent mothers to make an informed choice on the possible, legal and non-legal,  
20 consequences of their acts.

21       Sec. 14. *Monitoring and Reporting.* – Eighteen (18) months following the  
22 effectivity of this Act, the Sub-Council shall submit quarterly reports to the Council to  
23 monitor the progress of their respective areas. Thereafter, the Council shall consolidate  
24 the reports and make a comprehensive report with recommendations, as they may  
25 deem appropriate and necessary, which shall be submitted to the Office of the  
26 President for appropriate action.

27       Sec. 15. *Appropriation.* – Upon effectivity of this Act, the amount necessary to  
28 carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General  
29 Appropriations Act (GAA).

30       Sec. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the  
31 effectivity of this Act, the DOH, DepEd, DSWD, POPCOM, and PNP shall formulate and  
32 promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

33       Sec. 17. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or  
34 other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
35 repealed or modified accordingly.

1           Sec. 18. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall  
3 remain in force and effect.

4           Sec. 19. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following  
5 the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of  
6 general circulation in the Philippines.

7

8           Approved,