

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session

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Senate  
Office of the Secretary

SENATE

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S. B. NO. 858

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

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**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE BARANGAY DAY CARE  
SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT  
NO. 6972 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY-LEVEL  
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN  
ACT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Constitution has enshrined several protections to safeguard the welfare of children. One of these is in Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution, where the State is mandated to "protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all." In line with this agenda, previous administrations have passed measures and implemented policies which aim to achieve these lofty goals.

For the day care sector, Presidential Decree No. 1567 mandated the creation of barangay day care centers across the country. To strengthen this policy thrust, the legislature passed Republic Act No. 6972 in 1990 to expand the roles of day care centers to include growth and nutritional monitoring, and barangay assistance programs. In 2000, Republic Act No. 8980 further created a comprehensive policy framework for early childhood.

However, several years since the passage of these statutes, experience has shown that more needs to be done to improve the quality of, and accessibility to, day care centers in the country. Data from Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) show that in 2000, only 32,787 barangays established day care facilities as compared to the targeted 41,924

barangays.<sup>1</sup> This translates to a mere 72% accomplishment rate with reference to the standard set down by Presidential Decree No. 1567, which mandated the creation of a day care center in every barangay with at least 100 family heads residing therein. The same study also bemoaned the inadequacy of facilities in barangay day care centers, with day care centers only servicing one million children as compared to a 12 million population of two to six year olds that year.

Meanwhile, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reports that 31% of working-age women were not in the labor force in 2011 due to household or family duties.<sup>2</sup> This means that lack of child care support is a barrier to a woman's opportunity to seek employment.

This bill seeks to address the lack of and accessibility to day care centers, as well as expand the opportunities for women to seek employment, by strengthening the mandate of day care centers by ensuring that day care services are available for the whole duration of the work hours of the working parents and an additional two hours to account for the travel time of the parent to the day center to fetch their child/children, and providing child care financial assistance to parents who are minimum wage earners. This bill also seeks to bridge the gender gap between men and women with regard to child care by clarifying that child care services are available to children of "working parents" and not merely to "working mothers."

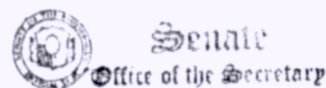
The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

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<sup>1</sup> Abulon, Edna Luz. Barangay Day Care Centers: Emergence, Current Status and Implications to Teacher Education. 2013. Retrieved from: [https://worldconferences.net/proceedings/gse2013/papers\\_gse2013/094%20Edna%20Luz%20R.%20Abulon.pdf](https://worldconferences.net/proceedings/gse2013/papers_gse2013/094%20Edna%20Luz%20R.%20Abulon.pdf) (date last accessed: July 23, 2019).

<sup>2</sup> Gender Equality in the Labor Market in the Philippines, at p. 11, *citing* DOLE Decent Work Statistics Online Database. Asian Development Bank (2013). Retrieved from: <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/31194/gender-equality-labor-market-philippines.pdf> (date last accessed: July 23, 2019).



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**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE BARANGAY DAY CARE SYSTEM,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6972  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY-LEVEL TOTAL  
DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN ACT 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 “Child Care  
2 Assistance Act.”

3  
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State recognizes the Filipino family as  
5 the foundation of the nation. Towards this end, the State shall defend the right  
6 of children to assistance, which includes proper care and nutrition and  
7 establish, maintain, and support a system of education relevant to the needs  
8 of people and society.

9  
10 **SEC. 3.** Section 3 of Republic Act No. 6972, otherwise known as the  
11 Barangay-Level Total Development and Protection of Children Act, is hereby  
12 amended to read as follows:

13  
14 Section 3. Program Framework. – The total development and protection  
15 of children program for day care centers shall be provided for children up  
16 to six (6) years of age with the consent of parents: provided, however,  
17 that, in case of abused, neglected or exploited children, such consent  
18 shall not be required. The program shall include the following:

19  
20 ...

21  
22 (c) Care for children of working PARENTS [mothers] during the day and,  
23 where feasible, care for children up to six (6) years of age when BOTH

1 PARENTS [mothers] are working at night: PROVIDED, THAT SUCH  
2 CARE SHALL LAST DURING THE WORK HOURS OF THE WORKING  
3 PARENT/S AND AN ADDITIONAL TIME OF UP TO TWO HOURS;  
4 PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT THE BARANGAY DAY CARE CENTER  
5 SHALL HAVE THE DISCRETION TO COLLECT A REASONABLE FEE  
6 FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES RENDERED BEYOND TEN (10)  
7 HOURS; provided FURTHER, that the day care center need not to take  
8 care of children in a particular place but shall develop network of homes  
9 where women may take care of the children up to six (6) years of age of  
10 working [mothers] PARENTS during work hours, with adequate  
11 supervision from the supervising social welfare officer of the Department  
12 of Social Welfare and Development: provided, further, that, where young  
13 children are left to the care of paid domestic, an elderly relative or older  
14 children without adequate and competent adult supervision, the  
15 supervising social welfare officer shall provide such training and adult  
16 supervision until the children's care meets adequate standards whereby  
17 the children under their care will develop normally as healthy, happy and  
18 loved children, even in the absence of their mothers during working  
19 hours;

20  
21 **SEC. 4.** A new Section 5-A is hereby inserted to read as follows:

22  
23 SECTION 5-A. CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE. – FINANCIAL  
24 ASSISTANCE FOR THE PAYMENT OF CHILD CARE SERVICES FOR  
25 CHILDREN NOT MORE THAN SIX (6) YEARS OLD SHALL BE  
26 PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT, THRU THE DEPARTMENT OF  
27 SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT; *PROVIDED*, THAT SUCH  
28 ASSISTANCE SHALL ONLY BE GRANTED TO PARENT/S WHO ARE  
29 MINIMUM WAGE EARNERS; *PROVIDED FURTHER*, THAT SUCH  
30 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SHALL BE PAID DIRECTLY TO THE  
31 ACCREDITED PRIVATE DAY CARE CENTER AS FEE REDUCTION.

32  
33 **SEC. 5. Appropriations.** – An amount of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00)  
34 shall be appropriated for the initial year of implementation of this Act.  
35 Thereafter, the amount necessary for the proper implementation of this Act  
36 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

37  
38 **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from  
39 the implementation of this Act, the Department of Social Welfare and  
40 Development, in coordination with other relevant government agencies and  
41 upon consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall issue the implementing  
42 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

43  
44 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause.** – Any portion or provisions of this Act that may  
45 be declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying  
46 other portions and provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions or  
47 provisions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

48

1 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders,  
2 proclamations and administrative regulations, or any parts thereof inconsistent  
3 herewith are hereby revoked, repealed or modified accordingly.

4  
5 **SEC. 9. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
6 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national papers of  
7 general circulation.

8  
9 **Approved,**  
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