



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

'19 SEP 23 P 4 :23

SENATE  
S. No. 1069

RECEIVED BY

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Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

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**AN ACT**  
**DESIGNATING THE 3RD WEEK OF NOVEMBER AS "LINGGO NG PAGALALA AT PAGHILOM" FOR ROAD CRASH VICTIMS, SURVIVORS, AND FAMILIES<sup>1</sup>**

***Explanatory Note***

Almost every other day, Filipinos hear radio and television news reports about road crash. According to the World Health Organization Global Status Report on Road Safety 2015, the Philippines registers at 10,379 for annual road fatalities which translates to 10.5 fatalities per 100,000 population per year.<sup>2</sup> Globally, more than 1.25 million people die from road crash.<sup>3</sup>

Oftentimes, the victims and survivors are reduced into mere statistics and only known by the numbers. It is not every day that families of victims and survivors of road crash are given the chance to share how the devastating event dramatically changed their lives. Here are their stories and the grief that followed them.<sup>4</sup>

Ariel Vergara is one of the casualties of the infamous Tanay bus tragedy. On February 20, 2017, the students of Bestlink College of the Philippines, including Ariel, were bound for a camping trip when the bus lost its brakes and slammed into an electric post in Tanay, Rizal province. A total of 14 students died. Ariel survived but his spine is completely damaged. His brother, Arnel, shares how their life changed after the tragedy: *"Until now, we are still trying to figure out how we will continue. It is hard with*

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<sup>1</sup> This legislation is inspired by the families of victims and survivors of road crash, led by the Families of Road Victims and Survivors Association Philippines Incorporated. The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is commemorated on the third Sunday of November each year.

<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization. (2015). Global status report on road safety 2015. Retrieved from <http://www.who.int/iris/handle/10665/189242>

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization. (2018). Road traffic injuries. Retrieved from <http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/road-traffic-injuries>

<sup>4</sup> Honoring the memory of Ryan Brecia, Romy Taberna, Lester Singun, and all those who suffered and died in road crash.

*our dreams shattered. And our finances destroyed. Our hearts fell apart with an unsecured future. We are scared of a lot of things. We are, really afraid of what the future holds."*

A birthday celebration turned tragic for colleagues Janine Manzanida, Rose Ann Oquendo, Lyn Pascua, Ryan Yadao, Jacklyn Mae Terrado, and Bubbles Lapu-os. On November 17, 2014, they came from a birthday celebration of a colleague and traveling back home when a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) came crashing into their Multi-Utility Vehicle (MUV). The SUV threw itself airborne and landed on the roof of their MUV. Janine, Rose Ann, and Lyn died while Ryan, Jacklyn Mae, and Bubbles were left seriously injured. The mother of Janine, Nuela, shares the harrowing experience of losing a loved one: *"An orphaned mother maybe an inappropriate term compared to orphaned children left by deceased parents. Nevertheless appropriate or not, I will call myself an orphaned mother... The grief is so great. The pain is so severe."*

After an exhausting day at work, Ivory Abaya and her friend Karen Graneta booked Grab taxi to their way home. The taxi they were in was crushed by three (3) trucks along Nagtahan Bridge in Santa Mesa, Manila. The rescue took almost an hour. Ivory died in the hospital; Karen survived but spent several weeks in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Two years after the incident, Karen remembers Ivory: *"Para sa iyo at sa mga taong nagmamahal sa akin, lalakasan ko yung loob ko. Walang susuko until full recovery at kakamitin ko iyong hustisya para sa atin [For you and for all the people who love me, I will be strong. I will not back down until I am fully recovered, and I will seek justice for the both of us]."*

The book World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims: A Guide for Organizers quotes an excerpt from the Holocaust Memorial Day Booklet 2007 that best describes the need to remember and honor the victims and survivors of road crash: *"Public reflection is the act of recognition. It states to the victims and their families that their humanity is valued, that their loss is our loss and that their suffering is shared, if only through recognizing the tragedy and error of its occurrence."*

Thus, the bill seeks to dedicate the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November as the "Linggo ng Pagalala at Paghilom" for road crash victims, survivors, and families to raise public awareness on the causes, consequences, and costs of deaths and injuries due to road crash. The bill also aims to strengthen the advocacy of preventing road crash and promoting road safety through a collaborative platform that brings together various sector stakeholders. Under this measure, the local government units, together with national government agencies, will undertake a number of activities to commemorate the memories of those killed and seriously injured on the Philippine roads.

A week dedicated for commemoration and remembrance is a motivation for the survivors to move on and be healed. Equally, it is a valuable chance to extend the

same power of healing to countless other families as it becomes an avenue of inspiration to the greater number.

Immediate approval of this bill is eagerly sought.

  
GRACE POE

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**PAGHILOM" FOR ROAD CRASH VICTIMS, SURVIVORS, AND FAMILIES**

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Linggo ng Pagalala at  
2 Paghilom."

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the national government to  
4 ensure the protection and safety of its people from any form of road hazards and to  
5 value human lives by way of remembering the victims of road crashes and recognizing  
6 the sufferings of their affected families and communities. Toward this end, a National  
7 Week of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, Survivors, and Families must be  
8 declared to raise the awareness of the people on the causes, consequences, and costs  
9 of road deaths and injuries, and for the strengthening of advocacy to prevent such  
10 traumatic incidents and promote road safety through a collaborative platform that  
11 brings together various sector stakeholders.

12 Sec. 3. *Commemoration Week.* - Every third week of November of each year is  
13 hereby declared as the "Linggo ng Pagalala at Paghilom."

14 Sec. 4. *Mandatory Activities.* - To ensure the meaningful observance of the week  
15 as herein declared, the following activities shall be undertaken under each local  
16 government unit (LGU):

- 1 a) Special commemoration to remember all road crash victims, survivors,  
2 and families by way of religious mass services and/ flower laying  
3 ceremonies lead by LGU officials (city/ municipality);
- 4 b) Enactment of city and municipal ordinance/ resolution for the  
5 designation of an identified LGU public spaces as a memorial tribute  
6 for victims and survivors;
- 7 c) Special blood donation campaign per LGU as coordinated through the  
8 Department of Health (DOH), Philippine Blood Center (PBC), and the  
9 Philippine Red Cross (PRC) in the area;
- 10 d) Special recognition day for emergency/ rescue personnel, volunteers,  
11 and stakeholders;
- 12 e) Special inter faith and inter religious commemoration in all local  
13 government offices and police stations; and
- 14 f) Public awareness campaign, solidarity march, and road safety  
15 advocacy programs and services.

16 Sec. 5. *National Working Committee.* - To oversee the activities under this Act  
17 and prepare a program for the meaningful commemoration of the "Linggo ng Pagalala  
18 at Paghilom," the DOTr shall be designated as the Chairperson, with the following as  
19 members:

- 20 a) DOH,
- 21 b) Department of Education (DEPED),
- 22 c) Commission on Higher Education (CHED),
- 23 d) Department of Interior and Local Governments (DILG),
- 24 e) Department of Social Welfare & Development (DSWD),
- 25 f) National Youth Commission (NYC),
- 26 g) Presidential Communications Office (PCOO),
- 27 h) Philippine Information Office (PIO),
- 28 i) Philippine National Police (PNP),
- 29 j) PBC,
- 30 k) League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP),

- 1 l) League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP),
- 2 m) League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP),
- 3 n) Liga ng mga Baranggay (LB),
- 4 o) League of Governors and Vice Governors of the Philippines (LGP and
- 5 LVGP),
- 6 p) League of Mayors and Vice Mayors of the Philippines (LMP and LVMP),
- 7 q) Provincial Board Members League of the Philippines (PBML),
- 8 r) Philippine Councilors League of the Philippines (PCL),
- 9 s) Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP),
- 10 t) Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and
- 11 u) PRC National Head Quarters

12 *Sec. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the  
13 effectivity of this Act, the Commemoration Week Working Committee shall promulgate  
14 the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act. The  
15 IRR shall provide procedure geared towards streamlined processes that will support the  
16 National Week.

17 *Sec. 7. Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or  
18 unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall  
19 remain valid and subsisting with full effect implementation.

20 *Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.* - Any act, law, decrees, ordinance, resolution,  
21 executive orders rules and regulations, or administrative issuance contrary to or  
22 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, amended, or modified  
23 accordingly.

24 *Sec. 9. Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect Fifteen (15) days after publication  
25 in designated two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

26 Approved,

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