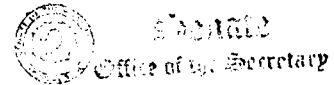



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



20 APR 16 A9:11

**SENATE**  
**S. B. No. 1426**

SECRETARY 

---

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

---

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
"SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST ABUSE, EXPLOITATION  
AND DISCRIMINATION ACT", AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

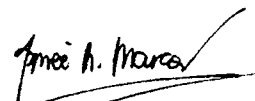
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "*the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.*" The State, thus, places primordial importance to the rights and needs of minors since they are considered to be vulnerable to all forms of abuse and exploitation. Most laws are geared towards promoting their best interests such as Republic Act No. 9344 otherwise known as the "Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act," as amended, and Republic Act No. 7610, or the "*Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act.*"

In 2019, the Senate Committee on Cultural Communities conducted an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the closure of fifty-five (55) Lumad schools for indigenous children in the Davao region. Public hearings unfolded findings that the minors, some as young as nine (9) years old, were taught how to fire weapons and sing a different national anthem, among others. Worse, they are persuaded to leave their homes in order to join a cause they do not yet fully understand.

Under the circumstances, the minors were deprived of their right to education, to a life free from armed conflicts, and to develop their full potential. This bill seeks to expand the definition of child abuse to include indoctrination, training, recruitment, transportation, or taking in order to engage in activities detrimental to their well-being, and to penalize the same.

Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS**

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

20 APR 16 A9:11

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



**SENATE**  
**S. B. No. 1426**

---

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

---

**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**  
**"SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST ABUSE, EXPLOITATION**  
**AND DISCRIMINATION ACT", AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **Section 1. Declaration of Policy.** – The State upholds the right of every child to  
2 maximize his/her full potential and become a responsible member of the society, able  
3 to make sound decisions and contribute to the community in his/her own way.

4 It shall be the policy of the State to ensure that a child grows in an environment  
5 conducive to his/her full development, with access to quality education, under the  
6 ambit of protection and guidance of his/her parents or legal guardians, and with care  
7 to treat them as zones of peace, free from exposure and participation to any kind of  
8 armed conflict.

9 **SEC. 2.** Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7610, as amended, is hereby amended to read  
10 as follows:

11 "Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* –

12

XXX

1 (E) "INDOCTRINATION" REFERS TO THE PROCESS OF  
2 INFLUENCING OR ALTERING A CHILD'S BELIEF/S, THROUGH  
3 LECTURING, IMMERSION, OR ANY OTHER MEANS, CAUSING  
4 HIM/HER TO ABANDON HIS/HER PLACE OF ABODE, OR SPEND A  
5 CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME AWAY FROM HIS/HER PLACE  
6 OF ABODE, AND ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES SUGGESTED OR  
7 ORDERED BY THE PERSON/S WHO INDOCTRINATED HIM/HER OR  
8 BY ANY OTHER PERSON OTHER THAN THOSE WHO EXERCISE  
9 PARENTAL AUTHORITY OVER THE CHILD; AND

10 (F) "TRAINING" REFERS TO THE USE OF FIREARMS AND THE  
11 IMPARTING OF COMBAT SKILLS NOT SANCTIONED BY THE  
12 GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE  
13 AMBUSCADES OF GOVERNMENT FORCES AND RAIDS OR ATTACKS  
14 OF GOVERNMENT FACILITIES AND INSTALLATIONS."

15 **SEC. 3.** Section 10 of Republic Act No. 7610 is hereby amended to read as follows:

16 "Sec. 10. *Other Acts of Neglect, Abuse, Cruelty or Exploitation and Other*  
17 *Conditions Prejudicial to the Child's Development.* -

18 xxx

19 (a) xxx

20 (b) xxx

21 (c) xxx

22 (d) xxx

23 (E) ANY PERSON WHO INDOCTRINATES, TRAINS, RECRUITS,  
24 TRANSPORTS, OR ADOPTS A CHILD TO ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES  
25 DETRIMENTAL TO HIS/HER WELL-BEING, INCLUDING BUT NOT  
26 LIMITED TO MILITARY SKILLS TRAINING, SUCH AS THE USE OF  
27 FIREARMS, AND PARTICIPATION IN RAIDS AND AMBUSCADES,  
28 SHALL BE IMPOSED A PENALTY OF PRISION MAYOR IN ITS  
29 MEDIUM PERIOD AND A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIFTY

