AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL POLICY IN PREVENTING ADOLESCENT PREGNANCIES, INSTITUTIONALIZING SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR ADOLESCENT PARENTS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution assures that the State protects and promotes the welfare of the youth and their health. Article II, Section 13 stipulates that, "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation building x x x" while Section 15 states that, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

One of the most pressing health concerns involving the youth for years now is teenage pregnancy. The data from the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reveals that there are 183,967 live births among adolescents aged ten (10) to nineteen (19) years old in 2018. This means that there are 495 live births per day in the said age group. Further, the United Nations Population Fund Philippines stated in their Policy Brief dated January 2020 that "out of all live births within the adolescent age group, only 3% is fathered by men of the same age group, and that such pregnancies may be a result of coercion and unequal power relations between girls and older men."

In response to these alarming statistics and the daily difficulties braved by young mothers and their families in raising their children, Executive Order No. 141
was signed on June 25, 2021, “Adopting as a National Priority the Implementation of Measures to Address the Root Causes of the Rising Number of Teenage Pregnancies, and Mobilizing Government Agencies for the Purpose.” Under this issuance, “the State shall mobilize existing coordinative and legal mechanisms related to the prevention of adolescent pregnancies, and to strengthen the adolescents' capacity to make autonomous and informed decisions about their reproductive and sexual health by ensuring access to comprehensive sexuality education and reproductive health and rights services.”

The "Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy Act of 2022” will provide a legal framework for this endeavor. Among others, it seeks to provide full and comprehensive information to adolescents that can help them prevent early and unintended pregnancies and their life-long consequences and ensure corresponding interventions that could respond to the socioeconomic, health, and emotional needs of adolescents and youth, especially young women.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL POLICY IN PREVENTING ADOLESCENT PREGNANCIES, INSTITUTIONALIZING SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR ADOLESCENT PARENTS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the “Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy Act of 2022”.

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It shall be policy of the State to:

(a) Recognize, promote, and strengthen the role of adolescents and young people in the overall human and social economic development of the country not only in the future but also in the present;

(b) Recognize and promote the responsibility of the State to create and sustain an enabling environment for adolescents to enable them to achieve their development aspirations and potentials as well as mobilize them to positively contribute to the development of the nation;

(c) pursue sustainable and genuine human development that values the dignity of the total human person and affords full protection to people’s rights, especially of adolescent girls and boys and their families;

(d) promote and protect the human rights of all individuals including adolescents, particularly in their exercise of their rights to sexual and reproductive health, equality and equity before the law, the right to
development, the right to education, freedom of expression, the right to participate in decision-making, and the right to choose and make responsible decisions for themselves;

(e) Provide full and comprehensive information to adolescents that can help them prevent early and unintended pregnancies and their lifelong consequences;

(f) Ensure corresponding interventions that could respond to the social economic, health, and emotional needs of adolescents and youth, especially young women, with due regard for their own creative capabilities, for social, family, and community support, employment opportunities, participation in the political process, and access to education, health, counseling and high-quality reproductive health services;

(g) Encourage adolescent mothers and fathers to continue and finish their education in order to equip them for a better life, to increase their human potential, to help prevent early marriages, high-risk child-bearing, and repeated pregnancy and to reduce associated mortality and morbidity through comprehensive social protection interventions;

(h) Recognize and promote the rights, duties, responsibilities of parents, teachers, and other persons legally responsible for the growth of adolescents to provide in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the adolescent, appropriate direction and guidance in sexual and reproductive matters.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

(a) Adolescents refers to the population aged 10 to 21 years;

(b) Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) Care refers to the access to a full range of methods, techniques, and services that contribute to the reproductive health and well-being of young people by preventing and solving reproductive health-related problems;
(c) Adolescent Sexuality refers to the reproductive system, gender identity, values or beliefs, emotions, relationships, and sexual behavior of young people as social beings;

(d) Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) refers to the process of acquiring complete, accurate, relevant, and age-appropriate information and skills on all matters relating to the reproductive system, its functions and processes, and human sexuality and forming attitudes and beliefs about sex, sexual identity, interpersonal relationship, affection, intimacy, and gender roles. It has the purpose of developing the skills of young people for them to make informed decisions such as the capacity to distinguish between facts and myths on sex and sexuality, and critically evaluate and discuss the moral, religious, social, and cultural dimensions of related sensitive issues such as contraception and abortion, and decide and decide to prevent risky behaviors that can undermine the realization of their aspirations and potentials;

(e) Information and Service Delivery Network for Adolescent Health Development (ISDN) refers to the network of facilities, institutions, and providers within the province, district, municipality, citywide health and social system offering information, training, and core packages of health and social care services in an integrated and coordinated manner;

(f) Local Youth Development Council (LYDC) refers to the local body to be created based on RA 10742 (SK Reform Law) which is composed of representatives of youth and youth-serving organizations in the provincial, city, and municipal level with the primary function of assisting in the planning and execution of projects and programs of the Sangguniang Kabataan, and the Pederasyons in all levels;

(g) Task Force on Youth Development (TFYD) refers to the local body to be created based on Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 010632 (An Act to Postpone the October 2013 SK Elections) whose members will remain in office until such time that SK officials have been duly elected and qualified. They are mandated to formulate a Youth Development Plan and ensure that the plans programs and projects are implemented
in the barangay and that the SK funds are used solely for youth development;

(h) *Normal Schools or College Teachers* refer to the learning institutions training or educating teachers;

(i) *Public-Private Partnership (PPP)* is a cooperative arrangement between one or more public and private sectors, typically of long-term nature, for various development programs or projects;

(j) *Reproductive Health* refers to the state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes;

(k) *Risky Behaviors* refer to ill-advised practices and actions that are potentially detrimental to a person's health or general well-being;

(l) *Social Protection* constitutes policies and programs that seek to reduce poverty and vulnerability to risks and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalized by promoting and protecting livelihood and employment, protecting against hazards and sudden loss of income and improving people's capacity to manage risks;

(m) *Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Council* herein referred to as the Council, is an inter-agency and inter-sectoral council that shall be formed through this Act and serve as its implementing body;

(n) *Philippine Accreditation System for Basic Education (PASBE)* refers to the accreditation process that looks into the operations of the public and private elementary and secondary schools if they meet the quality standards as established by stakeholders of basic education.

Sec. 4. **Development of National Program of Action and Investment Plan for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy.** — The Council, in collaboration with other relevant national agencies, non-government organizations, and civil society organizations, shall develop an evidence-based National Medium-Term Plan for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy. The program of action shall serve as the national framework for inter-agency and inter-sectoral collaboration at all levels to address the
values of health, cultural, socioeconomic, and institutional determinants of adolescent pregnancy.

Based on the Medium-Term National Plan, a National Program on the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy (NPPTP) shall be developed and funded at all levels and shall become a priority program of the Philippine Population Management Program of the Population Commission (POPCOM), spearheaded and coordinated by the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Council, created under Sec. 22 of this Act.

The NPPTP shall be based on the inter-agency program of action involving all relevant government agencies and shall be considered as a program that is eligible for multiyear funding and inter-agency obligational authority to ensure the allocation for the key strategies in all concerned government agencies. The NPPTP shall be formulated with clear and prescriptive guidance for better implementation at the local level.

In order to ensure the full participation of the stakeholders, consultations with children, adolescents, and youth-oriented groups shall be held with the Council's youth representatives. The Results of the stakeholders' consultation that will be presented by the youth representatives shall be integrated into the formulation, implementation, operation, measurement, and evaluation of the NPPTP. If necessary, additional consultations with the stakeholders shall be conducted at various levels of the program to guarantee that the NPPTP remains youth focused and oriented.

Government agencies like the National Commission on Indigenous Population and the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos, while not part of the Council, shall be included in the development of the NPPTP in order to ensure that it will be inclusive and culturally-appropriate.

Sec. 5. Organization and Mobilization of Regional and Local Information and Service Delivery Network for Adolescent Health and Development (ISDN for AHD). – All chartered cities and municipalities shall organize and operationalize an ISDN for AHD consisting of different government and non-government organizations, institutions, and facilities catering information and services to adolescents within their locality. In cases of cities and municipalities with existing ISDNs, they shall now harmonize new and existing efforts and programs for AHD. The ISDB It may be organized by district in each municipality or city. An effective collaborative and referral
system among the members of the ISDN shall be established and implemented within a catchment area.

The ISDN for AHD will provide health services that are sensitive to the particular needs and human rights of all adolescents, paying attention to the following characteristics:

(a) Availability – Primary health care should include services sensitive to the needs of adolescents, with special attention given to sexual and reproductive health and mental health;

(b) Accessibility – Health facilities, goods, and services should be known and easily accessible (economically, physically, and socially) to all adolescents, without discrimination. Confidentiality should be guaranteed and maintained at all times;

(c) Acceptability – While fully respecting the provisions and principles of the Convention, all health facilities, goods, and services should respect cultural values, be gender sensitive, be respectful of medical ethics, and be acceptable to both adolescents and the communities in which they live;

(d) Quality – Health services and goods should be scientifically and medically appropriate, which requires personnel trained to care for adolescents, adequate facilities, and scientifically accepted methods.

The ISDN shall perform the following tasks and functions:

(a) Map and analyze the various factors contributing to pregnancies among adolescents at the regional and local levels;

(b) Identify and implement inter-agency interventions to address the various issues related to adolescent pregnancies in the region and at the local level;

(c) Harmonize all existing efforts addressing adolescent pregnancy and coordinate with all the necessary agencies, organizations, and stakeholders to ensure no-duplication of efforts at the local level;

(d) Capacitate ISDN agency-members in collaboration with relevant regional government agencies to ensure quality information and services to adolescents;
(e) Provide, in collaboration with LGUs, needed information and services for adolescent development;

(f) Generate or share resources is the implementation of the joint strategic plan of the ISDN; and,

(g) Monitor and evaluate effectiveness of coordination and referral systems and other interagency interventions jointly implemented by the ISDN.

The City of Municipal Health Officer shall be the head and point person of the local ISDN in collaboration with the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Federation or Task Force on Youth Development (TFYD) and/or Local Youth Development Council and other relevant national agencies. The City or Municipal Population Officer shall co-lead the local ISDN.

Sec. 6. Age and Development-Appropriate Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

The Department of Education, with assistance from the Council and in collaboration with other relevant agencies, develops and promotes educational standards, modules, and materials to promote comprehensive responsible sexuality education in schools, communities, and other youth institutions. The comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) shall be a compulsory part of education, integrated at all levels with the end goal of normalizing discussions about adolescent sexuality and reproductive health to remove stigma from all levels. The Council shall ensure that the CSE is medically accurate, rights based, and inclusive and non-discriminatory towards LGBT adolescents.

The CSE shall include age and development-appropriate topics such as, but not limited to: human sexuality, consent, adolescent reproductive health, effective contraceptive use, disease prevention, HIV/AIDS and the more common STIs, hygiene, health and nutrition, healthy lifestyles, gender-sensitivity, gender equality and equity, teen dating, prevention of gender and sexual violence, peer pressure, women's and children's rights, digital citizenship and issues like pornography, And life-skills, among others. The purpose of which is to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and values to make informed and responsible choices about their sexual and social relationships.

The CSE shall be standardized and implemented in all public and private basic education institutions. CSE delivery shall not be dependent upon the discretion of the
school administration or on its teachers. It shall be integrated in the school curriculum, guided by international standards. In order to ensure proper compliance, the provision and delivery of CSE in public and private basic education institutions should be listed as one of the criteria and an accreditation requirement of DepEd's Philippine Accreditation System for Basic Education (PASBE). Schools refusing to implement CSE shall have their accreditation reviewed by the PASBE board.

The Council shall undertake annual reviews to determine the effectiveness of the curriculum and to make revisions as necessary to enhance implementation of the program. In addition, the Council shall formulate a guide for CSE delivery for schools.

Sec. 7. CSE for Out-of-School Adolescents and those with Special Concerns.— The Council, the local ISDN, and the local government units (LGUs) shall collaborate to intensify and institutionalize interactive learning methodologies for CSE among out-of-school adolescents in the communities and workplaces as well as unsuitably housed youth: Provided, That the needs of indigenous, working persons with disabilities, and adolescents in social institutions are considered in the design and promotion of sexuality education among adolescents.

Delivery of CSE in a non-formal education setting shall be ensured by DepEd through their Alternative Learning System. Community youth leaders, through the SK, TFYD, or LYDC shall invest in a concentrated effort in reaching these groups and encourage peer to peer counseling. Volunteer groups and interested CSOs and NGOs should be recognized for supplemental support to the local ISDNs.

The local ISDN and LGUs shall also utilize their Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) and enlist their help in delivering CSE to out-of-school adolescents and those with special concerns.

DepEd, along with other relevant government agencies, shall be tasked to integrate a CSE syllabus that is culturally sensitive into the existing Madrasah curriculum.

Sec. 8. CSE for Parents and Guardians with Adolescent Children.— A community-based program for education and awareness of parents and guardians about teen sexuality shall be developed and implemented with the main objective of capacitating them the effectively guide, counsel, and provide support to their adolescent children in concerns and decisions related to their sexual health. The CSE
specifically designed for parents and guardians should include discussions on how to
address the familial and societal norms that encourages risk behaviors and
perpetuates ignorance of adolescent sexual and reproductive health. Furthermore, this
parent and guardian oriented CSE shall capacitate and encourage them continue their
sexual education with their children and wards in their households.

The module for this CSE program shall be developed by the Council. The topics
to be included shall include but are not limited to: positive discipline, responsible
parenthood, violence against women and children, and dealing with bullying and the
possible stigma of being a teen parent.

These classes should be conducted by trained Municipal / City Social Welfare
and Development Officers. Several avenues that can be pursued are Family
Development Sessions (FDS) of the DSWD and PTA meetings but other avenues
should also be pursued. The M/CSWDOs shall endeavor to reach out to parent
organizations in schools and communities to promote such programs.

Sec. 9. Training of Teachers, Guidance Counselors, and School Supervisors on
CSE. – The Council shall ensure that all teachers, guidance counselors, instructors,
and other school officials and trusted with the duty to educate adolescents on CSE
shall be properly trained on adolescent health and development and gender sensitivity
to effectively educate and guide adolescents in dealing with their sexuality-related
concerns. The training activities shall include the legal and human rights instruments
applicable to the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents, especially in cases of
unintended pregnancies as a result of sexual violence. The training shall be in
collaboration with the Council for technical assistance. Funding for the training shall
be allotted in the concerned government agencies’ annual allocation to be approved
by Congress.

As a result of the training, schools shall institute policies to support adolescent
mothers in ensuring that they stay in school and complete their education.

The CHED shall ensure that the CSE standards are integrated in the curriculum
and across specializations in the professional preparation and training for would-be
teachers in normal schools or teacher education institutions in the country.

Sec. 10. Promoting the CSE using the Social Media and other Digital or Online
Communication Platforms. – The Council shall optimize social media and other online
platforms to reach adolescent netizens with accurate information and messages on adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) concerns. A web portal for the NPPTP shall be developed and promoted by the Council to harmonize and link various government websites and online services for ASRH including the networked operationalization of ISDN for AHD.

Sec. 11. Participation of the Private Sector in the Promotion of CSE. – The government may enter into a public-private partnership agreement in mobilizing private communication networks and companies in promoting CSE through text or short message service (SMS) or media messages. An incentive mechanism for telecommunication companies shall be developed and implemented by concerned agencies to recognize private participation in promoting CSEs and adolescent youth health-seeking behavior, positive attitude towards sex, sexual relations and sexuality, etc.

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) shall review their existing guidelines to ensure that no movie and television programs depict, promote, and encourage unsafe sexual activities among adolescents as a normative behavior into society. An incentive scheme for adolescent-friendly television programs shall likewise be developed and implemented to encourage movie and television networks to produce materials and programs that promote responsible sexuality among adolescents.

Other private companies may be engaged to partner with the government agencies in designing and implementing innovative programs to prevent adolescent pregnancy.

Sec. 12. Access to Reproductive Health Services. – Adolescents who are presently or currently engaged in sexual activities shall be allowed to access modern family planning methods with proper counseling by trained service providers in public and private facilities. The aforementioned counseling is carried out with the end in view of ensuring healthy practices through the promotion of optimal health outcomes and protecting minors, especially those in vulnerable circumstances, from possible predatory and sexually exploitative practices.

For this purpose, all health service providers in health facilities including school clinics and school-linked health centers shall be trained on providing adolescent-
friendly and responsive information and services: Provided, That all health facilities shall be enhanced to become under adolescent-friendly facility by ensuring confidentiality, exclusive schedule for adolescents, availability of services for adolescents, non-judgmental and gender responsive health service providers: Provided, further, That adolescents shall not be denied access to clinical services and modern methods of contraceptives if and when they seek to avail of the aforementioned health care services.

The Council shall ensure that the ASRH training is integrated into pre-service curriculum training of Barangay Health Workers (BHWs), frontline health care providers, and social workers. The said training should include topics such as, but not limited to: consent, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, effective contraception use, disease prevention, HIV/AIDS and the more common STIs, hygiene, healthy lifestyles, and prevention of gender and sexual violence.

Linkages and referral systems shall be established in educational institutions in order to bridge gaps in between CSE and access to SRH services for in-school adolescents. For OSYs and other groups, a community peer educator could be chosen to advocate accessing SRH services and distribution of commodities.

In cases of pregnant adolescents, a wider spectrum of SRH services shall be made available to them spanning the pre-natal, ante-natal, and post-natal stages of pregnancy and its respective healthcare requirements. For in-school pregnant adolescents, consultations with the school nurse and guidance counselor shall be encouraged.

Provision of reproductive health services to adolescents should be based on the principles of non-discrimination and confidentiality, the rights of adolescents, their evolving capacities, and a life saving intervention.

Sec. 13. Social Protection for Adolescent Mothers or Parents. — A comprehensive social protection service shall be provided to adolescents who are currently pregnant and their parents in order to prevent repeat pregnancies and to ensure their well-being while assuming the responsibilities of being young parents. Such services shall include the following:

(a) maternal health services including pre-natal, ante-natal, and post-natal check-ups and facility based-delivery;
(b) post-natal family planning counseling and services for either or both adolescent parents;
(c) home-based, in-school, or tech-vocational education for adolescent mothers and parents;
(d) personal PhilHealth coverage, making mandatory enrollment and membership of indigent adolescent mothers;
(e) enrollment to social insurance like the Social Security Services;
(f) training, skills development, and support to livelihood programs for the household of the adolescent parents especially for the indigents;
(g) Continuing CSE for adolescent parents;
(h) workshops on couples counseling, parenting, and positive discipline for the impending parents; and,
(i) psychosocial-support and mental health services for adolescent parents.

Discriminatory and exclusionary practices that harm and discourage the education of adolescent parents shall be prohibited. All efforts shall be taken by school administrations to ensure and encourage the continuation of education of all adolescent parents; as such, support mechanisms and school retention programs and policies should be put in place.

Adolescent mothers and their partners shall be entitled to maternal and paternal leave, respectively, especially if both are employed. Suspension, forced resignation and other discriminatory acts in the workplace against pregnant girls shall be prohibited.

The LGUs through the Local Social Welfare and Development (LSWD) and/or the Health Office shall implement a continuing CSE program for adolescent mothers and fathers with technical assistance from the Council.

Sec. 14. Social Protection in Cases of Sexual Violence. – Strengthened comprehensive social protection mechanisms for adolescents, especially for girls, shall be provided.

Expectant and current mothers whose pregnancies were the result of sexual violence shall be given access and support to legal, medical, and psycho-social services. Further, the Council shall reinforce the capacities of health facilities in providing comprehensive post-trauma care for adolescents in cases of sexual violence,
sexual exploitation, or sexual harassment. Furthermore, the Council shall reinforce the capabilities of health facilities in providing post-trauma care for adolescents in cases of sexual violence, sexual exploitation, or sexual harassment. The post-trauma care includes but is not limited to services such as purposive family planning and counseling.

Health service providers, particularly the Barangay Health Workers (BHWs), other primary health care providers, and local population officers shall be given confidentiality and safeguarding guidelines and tools for spotting sexual exploitation and abuse of adolescents. A referral pathway shall be created by the Council to ensure that identified sexual abuse and exploitation survivors are assisted and properly handled.

Sec. 15. Social Protection in Cases of Emergency Situations. – The local ISDN shall be bolstered in the event of humanitarian and conflict crises or climate-related emergency situations. The local ISDN shall ensure swift and efficient delivery of SRH services to vulnerable adolescents and young pregnant girls. Increased vigilance shall be practiced in cases of gender violence, sexual assault, and exploitation in these situations. All incidences of the aforementioned situations shall be immediately addressed by the local ISDN through appropriate channels.

Special attention shall be given to young mothers who are at the late stages of pregnancy in case of (premature) labor. In order to ensure delivery of SRH of adolescents and adolescent expectant parents, LGUs shall incorporate adolescent SRH specific content and safeguards in their local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans.

Sec. 16. Care and Management for First Time Parents. – All pregnant adolescents, especially among the poor and hard-to-reach groups shall have access to skilled care throughout their pregnancy, delivery, and postnatal periods. SRH providers shall strive to provide as many adolescent mothers with their birth plans that details their intended place of childbirth delivery, availability of transport to these health care institutions, breastfeeding support and education, and respective costs. Special attention shall be given to younger pregnant mothers during obstetric care.

Workshops, classes, and seminars for the first time parents shall be provided with ante- and post-natal education. These classes shall include topics such as, but
not limited to: infant feeding and care, positive discipline, responsible parenthood, and safe sex practices. The classes shall be made available free of charge and at times most convenient for the teen parents.

   Educational institutions shall be encouraged to develop and establish support mechanisms that will encourage the return of teen mothers and parents, for instance: in-school-day care and breastfeeding stations.

Sec. 17. Encouraging Male Involvement. – The Council Shall develop programs that will promote male involvement in the prevention of early and unintended pregnancies. These programs shall include topics such as, but not limited to: responsible fatherhood, couples counseling, avoiding gender violence, life-skills, and co-parenting strategies. These programs shall emphasize the roles and responsibilities of being a father and promote their active involvement.

   These programs shall also serve as an avenue to encourage the uptake of SRH services and information of boys and young men.

Sec. 18. Designating February of Every Year as the Month for Raising Public Awareness on Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy and Conduct of Nationwide Communication Campaign. – To raise public consciousness on the issues on Adolescent pregnancy and general support from various stakeholders, the entire month of February shall be designated as Month For Public Awareness for Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy which shall be observed nationwide. Schools and other stakeholders shall hold activities with the objective of raising awareness and generate critical actions to address the issues of increasing adolescent pregnancy.

   Further, the Council, in collaboration with relevant agencies, LGUs, CSOs, and the private sector shall develop, launch, and sustain a nationwide campaign for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy.

Sec. 19. Foster Care or Adoption. – The DSWD shall provide assistance to adolescent mothers who may decide to put their child into foster care or adoption. The consent of the mother and one (1) parent or guardian of the mother shall be needed for the validity of the foster care or adoption.

   Social workers and guidance counselors shall provide support and guidance to the adolescent mothers and their guardians in order for them to make an informed choice on the possible, legal and non-legal, consequences of their action.
Sec. 20. **Residential Care Facilities for Disadvantaged Women.** – The existing residential care facilities for disadvantaged women of the Department of Social Welfare and Development shall be capacitated to accommodate the needs of pregnant girls. The management of the said facilities shall coordinate with their respective locality’s ISDN to provide SRH information and services to their residents.

In order to effectively serve their pregnant teen residents, these centers shall employ the following personnel: a caseworker, an on-call obstetrician-gynecologist, full-time midwife or nurse, and a psychologist.

If there is an identified demand and need for a residential care facility to be built and established, the local ISDN shall prioritize the city or municipality with the highest rate of teen pregnancy.

Sec. 21. **Integration of Local Program for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy in SK Programs.** – Strategies and programs which aim to prevent incidence of adolescent pregnancies shall be integrated in the SK programs at the local and community level using the 10% SK funds. In the absence of the SK, the Task Force on Youth Development (TFYD) shall undertake the responsibility of integrating adolescent pregnancy prevention programs in the barangay youth council’s activities. The Council shall issue guidelines to ensure the implementation of this provision.

The SK/TFYD shall likewise implement programs and activities that aim to develop the potentials and skills of adolescents to make them more productive members of the society. The topics of the said programs and activities are inclusive of but are not limited to: leadership training and life skills seminars that can be done together with the teens and their families. The SK/TFYD shall encourage youth participation in these activities as a means of diverting the focus and potentials of adolescents into more meaningful and productive endeavors.

The SK/TFYD shall enlist the support of the local barangay council, the local Council for the Protection of Children, in the barangay Health Center to be able to provide a more complete array of services, activities, and programs.

Sec. 22. **Creation of a National Information System on the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy.** – The Council shall endeavor to create a system that will comprehensively address and effectively monitor and evaluate the status, success,
and efficacy of the National Program of Action for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy and the NPPTP.

The existing Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study shall be renamed as Adolescent Health and Development Survey and be carried out every four (4) years to conduct surveys and collect age- and gender-disaggregated data. Its topics shall cover a wider range of topics and indicators extending beyond adolescent sexuality and reproductive health. Its coverage shall include topics such as, but not limited to education, adolescent health, and labor.

Existing surveys such as the National Demographic and Health Survey, Family Health Survey, Family Planning Survey, and Maternal and Child Health Survey shall begin the collection of data-disaggregated at age ten (10) to fourteen (14) years and include never-married women in data collection in order to have a more accurate picture.

Research and data collected from the assessment and evaluation shall be stored in a public database.

Sec. 23. Implementation Structure. — An Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Council to be integrated as a sub-committee of the National Implementation Team of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RPRH) Law Shall be established to be composed of the following:

(a) The DOH Secretary as the Chairperson;
(b) The POPCOM Board of Commissioner Chair as Co-Chairperson;
(c) Senior officials (at least Undersecretary level) of the NYC, DepEd, DSWD, DILG, CHED, and TESDA as ex-officio members;
(d) Five (5) members appointed by the Chairperson who are persons with knowledge, expertise, accomplishment, and with no less than five-year experience in the fields of public health, adolescent rights and social protection, education, psychology, social welfare: Provided, That one qualified member is appointed in each field: Provided, further, That majority of these appointed members are female;
(e) Two (2) representatives of children and youth appointed by the Council chairperson from various nationally represented youth organizations: Provided, That one is male and one is female; and,
(f) The Chairpersons of the League of Cities and League of Municipalities. The POPCOM shall serve as the secretariat of the Council.

The appointment of members shall be in accordance with the rules and procedures as prescribed by the POPCOM, taking into account the approximate proportion between men and women.

The Council shall have the powers and duties as follows:

(a) The proposed legislative and administrative policies on the prevention of adolescent pregnancy;
(b) To develop operational guidelines for government agencies and private organizations in the development and implementation of comprehensive strategies and programs for prevention of adolescent pregnancy, including sexual violence;
(c) To monitor implementation of the provision of the law;
(d) To coordinate with various government councils and technical working groups with the end in view of converging and harmonizing various efforts and programs aimed to prevent adolescent pregnancies;
(e) To conduct research and generate evidence on the drivers of adolescent pregnancy to inform programs and policies; and,
(f) To provide relevant agencies and private organizations with recommendations and solutions to the challenges and gaps in the course of implementing the program.

At the national level, the Council agency members shall have the following duties and functions in accordance to their mandates and in relation to the implementation of this Act:

(a) The DOH shall:
   i. ensure the availability and provision of ASRH information, services, and commodities in all public and private health facilities;
   ii. ensure the training of health service providers in providing adolescent-friendly and responsive health services; and,
iii. support and provide technical assistance in the capacity building of existing ISDNs and establishment of new ISDNs at the local level.

(b) The Commission of Population shall:

i. develop, in coordination with the relevant agencies, the NPPTP as part of the national population program;

ii. implement a program for the training of parents and guardians ineffectively guiding adolescents on ASRH issues;

iii. set-up the National Information System on the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy that shall be used for the plan and program development and monitoring and evaluation of indicators at all levels;

iv. take the lead in the nationwide and community-based campaign for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy, including the development and maintenance of the web portal for relevant online information and services; and,

v. serve as the secretariat of the Council.

(c) The DepEd and CHED shall:

i. ensure the development and promotion of CSE standards and its corresponding learning modules for teachers and students

ii. ensure the comprehensive training of all teachers, guidance counselors, and school administrators on CSE;

iii. lead the delivery and implementation of CSE in all public and private basic education and tertiary educational institutions, as well as in non-formal educational settings;

iv. ensure the incorporation of CSE in the module of future educators;

v. guarantee quality assurance of educational institutions in terms of CSE delivery compliance through the PASBE accreditation;

vi. ensure the proper implementation and delivery of CSE in all schools and administer the PASBE review if or when deemed necessary;
vii. strengthen existing programs and develop and implement flexible
colorado learning options that will encourage the continuing education of
adolescent parents, especially mothers.

(d) The DSWD shall:
   i. take the lead in providing social protection for adolescent parents,
      especially in cases of sexual violence, abuse, and exploitation;
   ii. ensure the provision of social protection for a adolescents in
        humanitarian and/or emergency situations;
   iii. equip their existing Distressed Centers for Disadvantaged Women
        with increased capacity to accommodate more residents; and,
   iv. promote CSE for adolescents with special needs and in difficult
colorado circumstances.

(e) The NYC shall:
   i. ensure the integration of ASRH and CSE promotion in the SK or
      TFYD and LYDC programs and projects;
   ii. capacitate the SK or TFYD and PYDC in the implementation of this
       Act at the local level;
   iii. create and organize, together with DepEd, DILG, DOH, the
        League of Cities and Municipalities, and concerned NGOs and
        CSOs, programs that will promote peer education at the local
        level; and,
   iv. conduct workshops, classes, and seminars for first time parents,
       in partnership with DOH, DSWD, and other concerned Council
       members and relevant agencies.

(f) The DILG shall:
   i. ensure the compliance of LGUs in the implementation of this Act
      by including the implementation of ASRH programs as a qualifying
      requirement for the Seal of Good Local Governance; and,
   ii. assist the local ISDNs through their League of Provinces, League
       of Cities, League of Municipalities, and League of Barangays.

(g) The TESDA shall:
i. provide social protection to adolescent parents by providing skills training and livelihood support; and,

ii. encourage enrollment in technical-vocational courses for adolescent parents who are not fully equipped to return to in-school education.

(h) The CWC shall:

i. integrate in its development and strategic frameworks issues and concerns from children-specific to teen pregnancy and ensure the adoption of such frameworks by the LGUs and other stakeholders;

ii. vigorously advocate for the awareness and prevention of teen pregnancy; and,

iii. develop, adopt, and implement, in a manner consistent with adolescents’ evolving capacities, legislation, policies, and programs that will promote children and adolescent health and development.

(i) The League of Cities and League of Municipalities shall:

i. help ensure the proper implementation of this Act in LGUs by monitoring the LGUs in their jurisdiction;

ii. encourage local chief executives in adopting and implementing this Act in their LGUs; and,

iii. provide additional support to the local ISDNs.

At the local level, the City or Municipal Health Office shall organize and lead the coordination of local ISDNs and become its point person. With assistance from the City or Municipal Population Office, the local SK/TFYD/LYDC, and the Council, shall adapt the NPPTP to their localities and be responsible for its implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The LGUs shall enlist the participation of children, adolescents, and youth-oriented groups as well as CSOs and NGOs as much as possible. Specific strategies shall be designed to reach marginalized and vulnerable adolescent sub-sectors.

Sec. 24. Annual Allocations. — All concerned government agencies including the LGUs shall include in their annual budget the necessary funds for strategies and activities within their mandates that are contributory to the implementation of this Act.
Agencies and LGUs may also utilize their Gender and Development (GAD) budget in implementing programs and activities to carry out this Act.

Sec. 25. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within one hundred and twenty (120) days upon the effectivity of this Act, the Council should be organized to formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act.

Sec. 26. Reporting Requirements. — Before the end of April each year, the Council shall submit to the President of the Philippines and the Congress an annual consolidated report, we shall provide a definitive and comprehensive assessment of the implementation of its programs and those of other government agencies in relation to the implementation of this Act and recommend priorities for executive and legislative actions. The report shall be printed and distributed to all national agencies, the LGUs, NGOs and private sector organizations involved in said programs.

Sec. 27. Separability Clause. — If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Sec. 28. Repealing Clause. — Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

Sec. 29. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,