

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE]
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES]
First Regular Session]

23 JAN 31 P6:41

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P.S. Res. No. 454

Introduced by SENATOR WIN GATCHALIAN

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10627, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE ANTI-BULLYING ACT OF 2013”, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FORMULATING AND RECOMMENDING POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE INTERVENTIONS FOR ITS EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT

1 **WHEREAS**, Republic Act (RA) No. 10627, otherwise known as the “Anti-
2 Bullying Act of 2013” was enacted on September 12, 2013, directing all
3 elementary and secondary schools to adopt policies to address the existence of
4 bullying in their respective institutions;

5
6 **WHEREAS**, studies show that school bullying negatively impacts student
7 learning and motivation in the long term.¹ Aside from the learner-level adverse
8 effects, bullying incidents also severely affect the school environment in such a
9 way that even the learners who are not bullied would feel unsafe learning in an
10 environment where they witness bullying;

11
12 **WHEREAS**, based on the latest Programme for International Student
13 Assessment (PISA) results released on December 3, 2019, Filipino learners are

¹ See <https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/The-Impact-of-Community-Violence-on-Educational-Outcomes.pdf>,
https://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/167281/E96444_part1.pdf,
[Children’s Perspectives and Evaluations of Safety in Diverse Settings and Their Subjective Well-Being: A Multi-National Approach \(repec.org\)](https://www.repec.org/).

1 the most exposed to bullying compared to their peers from other countries.
2 Among the 15-year-olds who participated in the large-scale international
3 assessment, 65% said they experienced bullying at least a few times a month.
4 PISA results further show that learners who reported being threatened scored 56
5 points lower in Reading compared to those who had no or less frequent
6 experiences;

7
8 **WHEREAS**, data from the PISA study also reveals that there were learners
9 who experienced or were threatened with violence. About 32% reported that they
10 got hit or pushed around by other students, and 35% received threats from other
11 students;

12
13 **WHEREAS**, according to a study conducted by a De La Salle University
14 team headed by psychology professor Dr. Allan Bernardo, efforts to raise the
15 quality of education must go beyond improving the curriculum and ensuring
16 enough resources for the safety and welfare of schools and learners. The study
17 cited the 2018 PISA results and concluded that poor readers tend to be more
18 exposed to bullying, which aggravated their sense of alienation – and further
19 undermined their learning;²

20
21 **WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization’s Global School-Based Student
22 Health Survey (GSHS) 2019 reveals that 4 in every 10 Filipino learners aged 13
23 to 17 experienced bullying on school property;

24
25 **WHEREAS**, the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) 2019
26 data shows that, among all countries that took the assessment, the Philippines
27 has the highest incidence of bullying, aggression, violence, and offensive behavior
28 in schools. About 63% of learners reported having experienced bullying at least
29 once a month – the highest among the surveyed neighboring countries, with
30 Malaysia in the far second at 26%;

31

² Bautista, J., DLSU research links poor studies to bullying, youth alienation, See <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1716619/dlsu-research-links-poor-studies-to-bullying-youth-alienation>, last accessed January 18, 2023.

1 **WHEREAS**, the SEA-PLM data also shows that in the Philippine school
2 environment, about 9% reported having experienced aggression, 12%
3 experienced violence, and about 29% experienced offensive behavior;
4

5 **WHEREAS**, all available nationally representative data depict an
6 alarmingly high incidence of bullying in Philippine basic education schools;
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Education (DepEd) issued DepEd Order
9 (DO) No. 40, s. 2012³ on the “Policy and Guidelines on Protecting Children in
10 School from Abuse, Violence, Exploitation, Discrimination, Bullying and Other
11 Forms of Abuse,” otherwise known as the “DepEd Child Protection Policy”, in
12 upholding the right of the child to special protection and reiterating its policy of
13 zero tolerance for any act of abuse and violence against children;
14

15 **WHEREAS**, DO No. 40, s. 2012 established a Child Protection Committee
16 (CPC)⁴ for all public and private elementary and secondary schools in the
17 prevention of bullying at the school level;
18

19 **WHEREAS**, DO No. 55, s. 2013 or the Implementing Rules and Regulations
20 (IRR) of RA No. 10627,⁵ amended DO No. 40, s. 2012⁶ and defined bullying as
21 “any severe, or repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal or
22 electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof,
23 directed at another student that has the effect of actually causing or placing the
24 latter in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm or damage to his property;
25 creating a hostile environment at school for the other student; infringing on the

³ Issued on May 14, 2012.

⁴ The CPC shall be composed of the following:

- a) School Head/Administrator — Chairperson
- b) Guidance Counselor/Teacher — Vice Chairperson
- c) Representative of the Teachers as designated by the Faculty Club
- d) Representative of the Parents as designated by the Parents-Teachers Association
- e) Representative of pupils, students, and learners as designated by the Supreme Student Council
- f) Representative from the Community as designated by the Punong Barangay, preferably a member of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC)

⁵ Effective January 3, 2014.

⁶ Section 16. Amendment of DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012. — The provisions of DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012, on bullying, are hereby deemed amended by this IRR. All other provisions of DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012 shall remain in full force and effect.

1 rights of another student at school; or materially and substantially disrupting
2 the education process or the orderly operation of a school”;

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the IRR of RA No. 10627 re-established and reconstituted⁷
5 CPC as the Anti-Bullying Committee that will handle bullying cases in public or
6 private schools;

7
8 **WHEREAS**, further amending DO No. 40, s. 2012, DepEd issued DO No.
9 003, s. 2021 on January 15, 2021, which created the Child Protection Unit (CPU)⁸
10 and the Child Rights in Education Desk (CREDe)⁹ to strengthen the
11 implementation of the DepEd Child Protection Policy and to help ensure that the
12 rights of the child in the basic education context are respected, protected,
13 promoted and fulfilled;

14
15 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to examine whether the procedures prescribed
16 under RA No. 10627, including immediate responses, reporting, fact-finding and
17 documentation, intervention, and disciplinary measures, are in place and
18 functioning in every school;

19
20 **WHEREAS**, a comprehensive review and gap analysis of RA No. 10627 is
21 vital to identify the issues and challenges in seeking strict enforcement to address
22 the alarming incidence of bullying in the country’s schools, which is linked to
23 poor learner performance;

24
25 **WHEREAS**, the recent barrage of tragic and unacceptable incidents related
26 to bullying, occurring in the month of January alone in Culiati High School in
27 Quezon City, at the University of the East Caloocan City Campus, and at the
28 Ateneo de Davao University, urgently calls for this legislative inquiry, not only to

⁷ Section 9. Child Protection Committee as Anti-Bullying Committee.
The Committee, as provided in DepEd Order No. 40, s. 2012 shall be composed of the following:

- x x x
- e.) Representative of students, except in kindergarten, as designated by the Supreme Student Council; and
 - f.) x x x For private schools, a representative from the Community provided in the preceding number shall be optional.

⁸ under the Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations, Palarong Pambansa Secretariat, and DepEd Employees Associations Coordinating Office

⁹ under the Office of the Undersecretary for Legal Affairs in the DepEd

1 remedy learner performance, but to inquire whether schools are in fact able, and
2 enabled, to respond to the psychosocial needs of their learners and deliver the
3 appropriate mental health support for their well-being;

4
5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE**
6 **PHILIPPINES**, to direct the Senate Committee on Basic Education to conduct an
7 inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status of the implementation of Republic Act
8 No. 10627, otherwise known as “The Anti-Bullying Act of 2013”, for the purpose
9 of formulating and recommending policy and legislative interventions for its
10 effective enforcement.

Adopted,



WIN GATCHALIAN