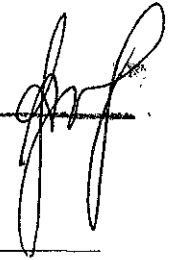


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

7 JUN 30 12:18.

SENATE
S.B. No. 17

RECEIVED BY: _____



Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XV, Section 3.2 of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines provides for the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development.

Republic Act No. 7610, otherwise known as "Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act" was enacted to give life to the provision of the Constitution on the special protection of children from all forms of abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation and discrimination, and other conditions prejudicial to their development. The law likewise mandates the government to carry out a program for prevention and deterrence of and crisis intervention in situations of child abuse, exploitation and discrimination.

However, in several deplorable circumstances, Filipinos tend to use children as shield or protection against police forces during mass actions. In fact just recently, the mass actions at the Hacienda Luisita brought about by labor and land disputes unfortunately led to the deaths of two (2) children. Moreover on October 19, 2004, thirty (30) children were accompanied by their mothers with a number of peasant leaders in a picket in front of the house of former, President Corazon C. Aquino to protest the retrenchment of workers in Hacienda Luisita.

Children of minor age have no business joining mass actions or picket lines where the issues being tackled or protested are beyond the scope of their understanding. The worst situation to see is when these children are used as pawns by their parents and protest leaders to gain sympathy for their cause. The purpose of this bill is to extend the protection of children, particularly those under 13 years of age, from abuse, neglect and exploitation that may expose them to danger during mass actions of all sorts.

Therefore, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.




RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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SENATE
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AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION ACT."

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

SECTION 1. Section 10 of RA No. 7610, otherwise known as "Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation And Discrimination Act," is hereby amended by adding a provision that read as follows:

"Section 10. Other Acts of Neglect, Abuse, Cruelty or Exploitation and Other Conditions Prejudicial to the Child's Development.

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"F. ANY PERSON WHO SHALL EMPLOY, COERCE, FORCE, INTIMIDATE OR TAKE ALONG WITH HIM ANY CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 13 YEARS TO SUCH PLACE OR PLACES WHERE THERE ARE PICKETLINES DURING LABOR DISPUTES OR STRIKES, PROTEST ACTIONS, MARCHES AND OTHER SIMILAR ACTIVITIES USED BY PEOPLE TO REDRESS THEIR GRIEVANCES SHALL SUFFER THE PENALTY OF PRISION MAYOR IN ITS MEDIUM PERIOD AND A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FORTY THOUSAND PESOS (P40,000.00): PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT SHOULD THE PERPETRATOR BE AN ASCENDANT, STEP-PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF THE MINOR, THE PENALTY TO BE IMPGSED SHALL BE PRISION MAYOR IN ITS MAXIMUM PERIOD, A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00), AND THE LOSS OF PARENTAL AUTHORITY OVER THE MINOR."

X X X

SECTION 2. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. Effectivity. -This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,