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SENATE
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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 862

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA


EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building. It has the duty of providing them with the necessary programs and infrastructures that will implement this objective.

For the past several years, there has been a considerable number of teenage pregnancy not only in foreign countries but also here in the Philippines. Probably due to the neo-colonial nature of our society wherein Filipinos, especially the youth imitates the way of life of their Western counterparts, the liberal principles and outlook in life justified certain acts which used to be unusual in the norms of the Filipino custom. Hence, teenage pregnancy proliferated. Rich and poor, movie and television figures and ordinary citizens alike – they all cannot escape from the possibility of teenage pregnancy.

The government as well as private organizations has, in fact, several programs that address the problems of the young mothers. These programs, however, has to be reviewed and evaluated, hence this bill came into being. The evaluation of such programs will enable the authorities to strengthen and if needed, revise them for more applicable implementation. This bill intends to reduce the rate of teenage pregnancy to provide them and their future children the means to enjoy healthy and stable living.

For these reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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AN ACT
REDUCING THE RATE OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY THROUGH
EVALUATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROGRAMS

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the **“Teenage Pregnancy Reduction Act.”**

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building. This recognition mandates the State to assist the youth in all aspects of their human development.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Act, the terms:

- (a) Programmatic approaches with respect to prevention programs, includes advocating abstinence from sexual activity; providing family planning services; fostering academic achievement; mentoring by adults; providing employment assistance or job training; providing professional counseling or peer counseling; providing for recreational or social events; and any combination thereof;
- (b) Prevention program means a program for the prevention of pregnancy in adolescents;
- (c) Secretary means the Secretary of the Department of Health

SEC. 4. Evaluation of Effective Programs for Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy. The Secretary shall arrange for the evaluation of a wide variety of existing programs designed in whole or in part to prevent pregnancy in adolescents, including programs that do not receive funds from the government for the operation of the programs. The purpose of the evaluation shall be the determination of the following:

- (1) The effectiveness of such programs in reducing adolescent pregnancy;
- (2) The factors contributing to the effectiveness of the programs; and
- (3) The feasibility of replicating the programs in other locations.

SEC. 5. *Participation of Government and Private Organizations.* In carrying out the evaluation under the preceding Section, the Secretary shall as appropriate:

- (1) Provide for the participation of the Department of Education, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Science and Technology and the Population Commission, and
- (2) Provide for the participation of organizations with demonstrated expertise in conducting evaluations of adolescent pregnancy prevention program.

SEC. 6. *Design of Evaluation.* Subject to Section 7, the Secretary shall select a design for the evaluation under Section 4 for among proposals that:

- (1) Provide for the evaluation of programs in various geographic regions;
- (2) With respect to the populations served by the programs, provide for determining factors that are specific to various socio-economic, age groups and factors that are specific to gender; and,
- (3) Meet such other criteria as the Secretary may establish.

SEC. 7. *Measures of Effectiveness.* The Secretary shall define the measures of effectiveness used in evaluating the programs designed to reduce the rate of adolescent pregnancy, and shall include a variety of measures of effectiveness in the definition.

SEC. 8. *Submission of Report.* Not later than one (1) year after the effectivity of this Act, the evaluation under Section 4 shall be completed and a report shall be submitted to Congress that describes the findings made in the evaluation and provides recommendations for future programs designed to reduce the rate of adolescent pregnancy.

SEC. 9. *Dissemination of Information.* After the submission of the report under Section 8, the Secretary shall disseminate the findings and recommendations presented in the report. The categories of individuals to whom the information is disseminated shall include administrators of prevention programs, public and private entities providing financial support to such programs, organizations working on such programs, professional medical associations, entities providing public health services, entities providing social work services, and school administrators.

SEC. 10. *Rule of Construction.* The provisions of this Act apply with respect to a prevention program without regard to which of the various programmatic approaches for the prevention of pregnancy in adolescents is the focus of the program.

SEC. 11. *Appropriation.* To carry out the provision of the Act, such amount as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the establishment of programs designed to reduce the rate of adolescent pregnancy shall be included in the annual appropriation of the Department of Health.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 13. *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 is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,