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NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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Senate
Office of the Secretary

'22 JUL 13 A10 :52

SENATE

RECEIVED BY

P.S. Res. No. 13

Introduced by SENATOR WIN GATCHALIAN

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RISING NUMBER OF ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY AND HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS AMONG THE YOUTH, FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING THE EXISTING COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND INTEGRATING EFFECTIVE PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN THE BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM

1 **WHEREAS**, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) states that
2 one of the most pressing issues that the Filipino youth are facing today is
3 teenage pregnancy and based on its study in 2016, adolescents in the
4 Philippines who have begun childbearing before reaching the age of 18 are
5 less likely to complete secondary education;¹

6 **WHEREAS**, the average share of teenage pregnancy in total births in
7 the country has substantially increased to about 28% since 2010 compared
8 to its average share from 2000-2009 at 21.5%, indicative of the worsening
9 state of the problem;

¹ United Nations Population Fund. (2020, January). *#GirlsNotMoms: Eliminating Teenage Pregnancy in the Philippines*. UNFPA. <https://philippines.unfpa.org/en/publications/girlsnotmoms-eliminating-teenage-pregnancy-philippines>

1 **WHEREAS**, recent data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)
2 show that there are 18 incidents of teenage pregnancy for every 1000 females
3 aged 10 to 19², and that incidence is notably higher in poorer provinces;

4 **WHEREAS**, studies show that teenage mothers who are less likely to
5 continue pursuing education will prevent them from realizing their full
6 potential and finding better opportunities;³

7 **WHEREAS**, based on the 2017 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey of the
8 PSA, “marriage or family matters” is the top reason why female out-of-school
9 children and youth aged 6 to 24 are not attending school;⁴

10 **WHEREAS**, adolescent pregnancy is generally not the result of a
11 deliberate choice, but a consequence of having little or absence of access to
12 school information, or sexual and reproductive health care;⁵

13 **WHEREAS**, adolescents who become pregnant at an early age have
14 associated risk factors such as acquiring Human Immunodeficiency Virus
15 (HIV);

16 **WHEREAS**, HIV, a major global public health issue, has likewise been
17 a burden to the country as around 65,463 cumulative cases of HIV have been
18 recorded from 1984 to March 2019 and 31% thereof are males aged 15 to 24
19 years old who are part of the younger population and still in learning
20 institutions;⁶

21 **WHEREAS**, the increase in the number of HIV cases among young
22 Filipinos has been attributed to lack of education about safe sex as many

² 2019 Teenage Pregnancy Data submitted by the PSA

³ World Bank. (2022, May 2). The Social and Educational Consequences of Adolescent Childbearing. World Bank Gender Data Portal. <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/data-stories/adolescent-fertility/>

⁴ Romero, P. (2020, January 6). *HIV, teen pregnancies robbing youth of future*. Philstar GLOBAL. <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/01/06/1982438/hiv-teen-pregnancies-robbing-youth-future>

⁵ Villamor, M. (2017, August 21). *Girls' voices essential in Philippines campaign against teen pregnancy*. United Nations Population Fund. <https://www.unfpa.org/news/girls-voices-essential-philippines-campaign-against-teen-pregnancy>

⁶ Montemayor, M. T. (2019, June 13). *DOH sounds alarm over increasing HIV prevalence among young men*. Philippine News Agency. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1072292>

1 engage in sexual contact without contraceptives;⁷

2 **WHEREAS**, perceiving the drastic outcome of teenage pregnancy and
3 HIV, the government has adopted several measures for the prevention and
4 mitigation thereof;

5 **WHEREAS**, the Office of the President issued Executive Order No. 141
6 on June 25, 2021 to adopt as a national priority the implementation of
7 measures to address the root causes of the rising number of teenage
8 pregnancies, and mobilizing government agencies for the purpose;

9 **WHEREAS**, to prevent teenage pregnancy from growing and to restrain
10 the rise of HIV cases, several laws have also been enacted such as Republic
11 Act No. 7610, otherwise known as the Special Protection of Children Against
12 Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act, Republic Act No. 8504,
13 otherwise known as the Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 1998,
14 and Republic Act No. 10354, otherwise known as the Responsible Parenthood
15 and Reproductive Health Act of 2012;

16 **WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 10354 provides an age- and development-
17 appropriate reproductive health education to adolescents which shall be
18 taught in basic education institutions and directs the Department of
19 Education (DepEd) to formulate a curriculum which shall be used by public
20 schools and may be adopted by private schools;⁸

21 **WHEREAS**, on July 13, 2018, the DepEd issued DepEd Order (DO) No.
22 31, Series of 2018, otherwise known as the Policy Guidelines on the
23 Implementation of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), which is
24 designed to ensure that learners are receiving comprehensive and appropriate
25 information that can advance gender equality and empowerment and reduce
26 risks related to poor health outcomes, among others;

27 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to DO No. 31, the core topics of the CSE such as
28 Human Body and Human Development, Personhood, Healthy Relationships,
29 Sexuality and Sexual Behaviors, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Personal

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Section 14, Republic Act No. 10354.

1 Safety, and Gender, Culture, and Human Rights, are integrated in the
2 learning areas of the K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum to wit: 1) Music,
3 Arts, Physical Education, and Health; 2) Araling Panlipunan; 3) Edukasyon
4 sa Pagpapakatao; 4) Science; and 5) Personal Development;

5 **WHEREAS**, notwithstanding the adoption of the CSE policy, the UNFPA
6 declares that there is a long delay in the integration and implementation of
7 the CSE in the K to 12 Curriculum and this delay is a significant missed
8 opportunity to provide young people with non-judgmental and scientifically
9 accurate and age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health information
10 that would curb the knowledge gap and provide life skills needed to make
11 informed decisions related to risk behaviors with consequences to their
12 health;⁹

13 **WHEREAS**, there is an urgent need to review our existing CSE policy
14 for the purpose of assessing the comprehensiveness of its scope and the
15 effectiveness of its implementation, not only to prevent the occurrence of
16 teenage pregnancies and HIV among the youth, but to educate our learners
17 to become independent and economically productive members of our society;

18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE**
19 **PHILIPPINES**, to direct the Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts and
20 Culture to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the rising number of
21 adolescent pregnancy and HIV among the youth, for the purpose of
22 strengthening the existing Comprehensive Sexuality Education of the
23 Department of Education and integrating effective preventive measures in the
24 basic education system.

Adopted,



WIN GATCHALIAN

⁹ *Supra* Note 1.