

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION )



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 2810

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The first six years of life are known as the formative years. The kind and quality of care given during this period is, therefore, very crucial.


The parents, under normal circumstances, play a major role in enriching the child's environment as the primary sources of learning and developmental experiences. However, this may not be the case in over seventy percent of the Filipino homes where many poor parents have insufficient resources, knowledge, and opportunities to promote early childhood training.

The increasing number of street children, the low achievement levels in elementary education despite huge investments by the Government, and the inability of many young children to complete schooling are among the problems attributed to inadequate parental guidance and attention.

Mothers may become so preoccupied with office or farm work that they can no longer attend to the needs of their children. In families where there are many children, mothers may not be able to attend to the needs of their pre-school children as priority has to be given to the care of infants and younger children.

It is for these reasons that Women's Community Support Centers are sought to be established. The centers will not only provide substitute maternal care for children, but would also serve as a center through which the livelihood programs, literacy programs and the population programs of the Government may be brought to the grassroots. It is hoped that the centers may serve as a complete support system for working women.

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

  
RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION )

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 2810

AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND CRISIS ASSISTANCE CENTERS  
FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EVERY PROVINCE AND CITY OF THE COUNTRY,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8505, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS  
THE "RAPE VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION ACT OF 1998"

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 1 of Republic Act No. 8505 shall be amended to read as follows:  
"SECTION 1. *Title.* — This Act shall be known as the ["Rape Victim  
Assistance and Protection Act of 1998"] **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND  
CRISIS ASSISTANCE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN ACT.**"

**SEC. 2.** Section 2 of the same Act is hereby also amended to read as follows:  
"SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared the policy of the  
State to [provide necessary assistance and protection for rape victims] **VALUE  
THE DIGNITY OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS, AND  
RECOGNIZE THEIR ROLE IN NATION-BUILDING AND ALL OTHER  
IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THEM.**  
Towards this end, the [government shall coordinate its various agencies and  
non-government organizations to work hand in hand for the establishment and  
operation of a rape crisis center in every province and city that shall assist and  
protect rape victims in the litigation of their cases and their recovery.] **STATE  
SHALL ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS  
AND SHALL PROVIDE THEM WITH FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES  
THAT WILL ENHANCE THEIR WELFARE AND ENABLE THEM TO REALIZE  
THEIR FULL POTENTIALS IN THE SERVICE OF THE NATION. THE STATE  
SHALL ALSO ENDEAVOR TO PROVIDE WOMEN AND CHILDREN WITH  
UTMOST SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE WHICH SHALL INCLUDE AMONG  
OTHERS, LEGAL SERVICES, LIVELIHOOD AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT,  
PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING AND ALL OTHER ASSISTANCE  
NECESSARY TO PROTECT THEM AGAINST ALL FORMS OF NEGLECT,  
ABUSE, CRUELTY, EXPLOITATION AND OTHER ACTS PREJUDICIAL TO  
THEIR WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT.**"

**SEC. 3.** Section 3 of the same Act is likewise amended to read as follows:  
"SEC. 3. [Rape] **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND Crisis  
ASSISTANCE CenterS.** — [The Department of Social Welfare and Development  
(DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of the Interior and  
Local Government (DILG), the Department of Justice (DOJ), and a lead non-  
government organization (NGO) with proven track record or experience in  
handling sexual abuse cases, shall establish in every province and city a rape



crisis center located in a government hospital or health clinic or in any other suitable place for the purpose of:

"(a) Providing rape victims with psychological counselling, medical and health services, including their medico-legal examination;

"(b) Securing free legal assistance or service, when necessary, for rape victims;

"(c) Assisting rape victims in the investigation to hasten the arrest of offenders and the filing of cases in court;

"(d) Ensuring the privacy and safety of rape victims;

"(e) Providing psychological counselling and medical services whenever necessary for the family of rape victims;

"(f) Developing and undertaking a training program for law enforcement officers, public prosecutors, lawyers, medico-legal officers, social workers, and barangay officials on human rights and responsibilities; gender sensitivity and legal management of rape cases; and

"(g) Adopting and implementing programs for the recovery of rape victims.

"The DSWD shall be the lead agency in the establishment and operation of the Rape Crisis Center.]

**"THERE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND CRISIS ASSISTANCE CENTERS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EVERY PROVINCE AND CITY OF THE COUNTRY, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "CENTERS". THESE CENTERS SHALL BE UNDER THE MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) IN CONSULTATION WITH CONCERNED LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs).**

**"(A) COMPOSITION OF THE INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL TO BE KNOWN AS THE ADVISORY COUNCIL. - AN INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL SHALL BE CONVENED TO SET THE CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF THE SITES OF THE CENTERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE EXISTING FACILITIES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND LGUs, NONGOVERNMENT AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT. THE COUNCIL SHALL BE COMPOSED OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DSWD, THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI), THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED), THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA), THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON WOMEN (PCW), THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION (NYC), THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN CONCERNS DIVISION OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (WCCD/PNP), THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) AND NONGOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS DULY ACCREDITED BY NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, SHALL BE INCLUDED AS MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL. THE INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL, DULY CHAIRED BY THE DSWD, SHALL ALSO ACT AS AN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO OVERSEE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CENTERS' PROGRAMS.**

**"(B) FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTERS. - THE CENTERS SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS TO ENSURE COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED SERVICES:**

**"(1) TO SERVE AS THE VENUE FOR CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING, CAPABILITY-BUILDING AND FUNCTIONAL LITERACY ENHANCEMENT**



PROGRAMS, AMONG OTHERS, THAT WILL ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ISSUES AND PROMOTE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION;

"(2) TO UNDERTAKE PROGRAMS GEARED TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE, SELF-ENHANCEMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SKILLS FOR LIVELIHOOD GENERATION, SOCIAL COMMUNICATION, AND OTHER RELATED SKILLS WHICH WILL HELP WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY;

"(3) TO PROVIDE FREE LEGAL SERVICES, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE INCLUDING MEDICO-LEGAL EXAMINATIONS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING TO VICTIMS OF RAPE AND OTHER CASES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN ENSURING THEIR PRIVACY AND SAFETY;

"(4) TO UNDERTAKE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MORAL RECOVERY AND GENDER-SENSITIVE VALUES FORMATION, COUNSELLING, REHABILITATION AND PSYCHOSOCIAL PROGRAMS;

"(5) TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY SHELTER TO ABUSED WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN;

"(6) TO ASSIST RAPE VICTIMS OR VICTIMS OF OTHER FORMS OF ABUSES IN THE INVESTIGATION TO HASTEN THE ARREST OF OFFENDERS AND THE FILING OF CASES IN COURT;

"(7) TO PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING AND MEDICAL SERVICES WHEN NECESSARY FOR THE FAMILY OF RAPE VICTIMS OR VICTIMS OF OTHER FORMS OF ABUSES;

"(8) TO PROVIDE SKILLS TRAINING OR LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE TO SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE;

"(9) TO STRENGTHEN AND FACILITATE LINKAGES OF WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS WITH RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND LGUs TO MAXIMIZE THE DELIVERY OF BASIC AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND ADVOCATE FOR THE PROTECTION AND ADVANCEMENT OF THEIR RIGHTS;

"(10) TO DEVELOP AND UNDERTAKE A CONTINUING CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR FRONTLINE SERVICE PROVIDERS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, PUBLIC PROSECUTORS, LAWYERS, MEDICO-LEGAL OFFICERS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, DEVELOPMENT WORKERS, SOCIAL WORKERS, HEALTH WORKERS, THERAPISTS AND BARANGAY OFFICIALS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES; GENDER SENSITIVITY AND LEGAL/CASE MANAGEMENT OF SITUATIONS/CASES INVOLVING WOMEN AND CHILDREN; AND

"(11) TO PERFORM SUCH OTHER FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS ACT.

"(C) CLIENTS OF THE CENTERS. - ALL WOMEN AND CHILDREN UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL BE ENTITLED TO PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE BY THE CENTERS:

"(1) VICTIMS OF PROSTITUTION AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION;

"(2) VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ABUSE AND BATTERY;

"(3) VICTIMS OF RAPE, INCEST, SEXUAL ABUSE, HARASSMENT OR MOLESTATION;

"(4) VICTIMS OF ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT, TRAFFICKING AND/OR LABOR EXPLOITATION;

"(5) VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICT, NATURAL OR ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM TRAUMA



DUE TO THE TRAGIC DEATH OR DISPLACEMENT OF FAMILY MEMBERS,  
DISLOCATION OR LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD;

"(6) ABANDONED AND RUN-AWAY WOMEN AND CHILDREN;

"(7) WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN DETENTION;

"(8) VICTIMS OF ANY FORM OF VIOLENCE AND SUFFERING FROM  
ANY CRISIS SITUATION;

"(9) VICTIMS SUFFERING FROM MENTAL, EMOTIONAL,  
PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES NEEDING SPECIAL  
SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE; AND

"(10) VICTIMS OF OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES AS MAY BE  
DETERMINED BY THE DSWD.

"(D) PERSONNEL/STAFF COMPLEMENT OF THE CENTERS. - EACH  
CENTER SHALL BE HEADED BY A FEMALE DIRECTOR WHO HOLDS A  
BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK OR COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT OR SIMILAR COURSES, HAS A MINIMUM EXPERIENCE OF  
FIVE (5) YEARS IN COUNSELLING, SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL  
SERVICES AND OTHER RELATED FIELD OR EXPERIENCE, AND  
POSSESSES A PROVEN TRACK RECORD AS AN ADVOCATE OF  
WOMEN'S ISSUES AND EXPERTISE IN GENDER-RESPONSIVE TRAININGS  
AND PROGRAMS FOR CAPABILITY-BUILDING AND IS OF GOOD MORAL  
CHARACTER.

"THE SECRETARY OF THE DSWD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE  
HEADS OF THE CONCERNED LGU SHALL APPOINT THE DIRECTOR AND  
OTHER NECESSARY PERSONNEL OF THE CENTERS. THE STAFF  
COMPLEMENT OF THE CENTERS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE  
APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT  
(DBM).

"VOLUNTEERS FROM THE VARIOUS NONGOVERNMENT  
ORGANIZATIONS MAY EXTEND PROFESSIONAL, HOUSEHOLD,  
RECREATIONAL AND TRAINING EXPERTISE TO THE CENTERS.  
STUDENTS OF SOCIAL WORK AND WOMEN STUDIES AND OTHER  
RELATED PROGRAMS WHO ARE IN PRACTICUM COURSES MAY RENDER  
VOLUNTARY SERVICES TO THE CENTERS. THE PERSONNEL AND STAFF  
AS WELL AS VOLUNTEER WORKERS SHALL UNDERGO REGULAR  
TRAININGS ON HOW BEST TO HANDLE THE DIFFERENT SITUATIONS OF  
THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE CENTERS."

**SEC. 4.** Republic Act No. 8505 is hereby further amended by inserting the following new  
Sections after Section 3 thereof:

"**SEC. 4. REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.** - THE  
DSWD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL  
CONVENED UNDER SECTION 3(A) HEREOF, SHALL WITHIN SIX (6)  
MONTHS FROM THE APPROVAL OF THIS ACT, FORMULATE A PROGRAM  
FOR THE REHABILITATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN, MENTIONED IN SECTION 3(B) HEREOF. THE  
COUNCIL SHALL ALSO OVERSEE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE PROGRAMS OF THE CENTERS AND MONITOR THE  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PARTICIPATING AGENCIES. IT SHALL ALSO  
ACT AS AN ADVISORY BOARD.

"THE DSWD MAY CALL ON NATIONAL AGENCIES AND LGUS,  
ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO  
ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT BY WAY OF PROGRAM  
COLLABORATION AND FUNDING AUGMENTATION, AMONG OTHERS.

"**SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT DONATIONS.** - THE DSWD,  
THROUGH THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, MAY ACCEPT

DONATIONS AND GRANTS, BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN, FOR PURPOSES RELEVANT TO THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTERS. THE DONATIONS AND GRANTS SHALL BE ALLOTTED TO THE VARIOUS CENTERS IN SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE DEEMED BEST BY THE DSWD OR FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED BY THE DONOR. SUCH DONATIONS AND GRANTS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO PERTINENT ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING RULES AND REGULATIONS."

**SEC. 5.** Sections 4, 5 and 6 of Republic Act No. 8505 are hereby renumbered accordingly as Sections 6, 7 and 8.

**SEC. 6.** Sections 7 and 8 are hereby deleted.

**SEC. 7.** *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the DSWD under the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 8.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days upon the approval of this Act, the DSWD and all concerned agencies shall formulate rules and regulations as may be necessary for the proper implementation thereof.

**SEC. 9.** *Separability Clause.* – If any part, section or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts thereof not affected thereby shall remain valid.

**SEC. 10.** *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

**SEC. 11.** *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,