

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

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612

House Resolution No. _____



**INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS**

A RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION TO ADDRESS IMMEDIATELY THE PROBLEM OF RISING CASES OF TEENAGE PREGNANCIES, AND HUMAN IMMUNODEFFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) INFECTION AMONG THE YOUTH, BY (1) INSTITUTIONALIZING COMPREHENSIVE AGE-APPROPRIATE SEXUALITY EDUCATION AND (2) CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE INTER-AGENCY SUMMIT ON SEXUAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND PROTECTION EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the rising cases of teenage pregnancies, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) incidence remains a growing concern in the Philippines, especially on the youth;

WHEREAS, the Population Commission reported that 24 babies are born to teenage mothers every hour, and almost 200,000 Filipino teens get pregnant annually, most of them from ages 15 to 19, making the Philippines among the countries in Asia-Pacific with the highest adolescent birth rate;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is the country with the fastest growing number of HIV cases in the world, according to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), despite the global decline of HIV cases around the world;

WHEREAS, the Department of Education has reported an increase in the number of out-of-school youth, and in particular, a high number of dropout rate for girls, citing reasons of early marriage and teenage pregnancy based on data from the Philippine Statistics Authority;

WHEREAS, the 2013 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFSS) by the University of the Philippines Population Institute (UPPI) and the Demographic Research and Development Foundation, showed that there is an increasing proportion of young people who begin sexual activity before age 18, from 12.9 per cent in 1994 to 24.3 per cent in 2013 for both males and females, indicating that one in three young people report having premarital sex;

WHEREAS, it is a reality that young people are engaging in sexual activities, but will partake in riskier sexual activities when they are not properly educated about their sexual and reproductive health;

WHEREAS, the future of our youth are heavily affected when they fall prey to the problems of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, such as HIV;

WHEREAS, the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RPRH) Law mandates the Department of Education (DepEd) to design a Comprehensive Age-Appropriate Sexuality Education which is a curriculum-based process of teaching about the cognitive, emotional, physical, and social aspects of sexuality;

WHEREAS, Comprehensive Age-Appropriate Sexuality Education is a rights-based and gender-focused approach, consistent with the evolving capacities of young people, that seeks to impart scientifically-accurate information about human development, anatomy, and reproductive health, as well as information about contraception, childbirth, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV;

WHEREAS, Comprehensive Age-Appropriate Sexuality Education equips the learners with knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that will empower them to make better life choices and fully realize and protect their health, well-being, and dignity;

WHEREAS, Comprehensive Age-Appropriate Sexuality Education has been recognized by the United Nations and other civil society organizations to significantly reduce risky sexual behaviors, and provide positive effects such as increased condom use or reduced unplanned pregnancies;

WHEREAS, it is the mandate of the State to promote and protect the welfare of the youth, especially in national emergencies that directly affect them, such as the rising rates of teenage pregnancy and HIV incidence in the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Department of Education, the Department of Health, and the National Youth Commission, to immediately address the problem of rising cases of teenage pregnancy and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection among the youth, by institutionalizing a comprehensive age-appropriate sexuality education and calling for an immediate inter-agency summit on Sexual Health Awareness and Protection Education to be called as the SHAPE SUMMIT.

Adopted,


REP. ALFRED VARGAS