

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6028

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representatives
Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" C. Villanueva and Domingo C. Rivera

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE BARANGAY DAY CARE SYSTEM,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6972
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY-LEVEL TOTAL
DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN ACT AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution has enshrined several protections to safeguard the welfare of children. One of these is in Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution, where the State is mandated to "protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all." In line with this agenda, previous administrations have passed measures and implemented policies which aim to achieve these lofty goals.

For the day care sector, Presidential Decree No. 1567 mandated the creation of barangay day care centers across the country. To strengthen this policy thrust, the legislature passed Republic Act No. 6972 in 1990 to expand the roles of day care centers to include growth and nutritional monitoring, and barangay assistance programs. In 2000, Republic Act No. 8980 further created a comprehensive policy framework for early childhood.

However, several years since the passage of these statutes, experience has shown that more needs to be done to improve the quality of, and accessibility to, day care centers in the country. Data from Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) show that in 2000, only 32,787 barangays established day care facilities as

compared to the targeted 41,924 barangays.¹ This translates to a mere 72% accomplishment rate with reference to the standard set down by Presidential Decree No. 1567, which mandated the creation of a day care center in every barangay with at least 100 family heads residing therein. The same study also bemoaned the inadequacy of facilities in barangay day care centers, with day care centers only servicing one million children as compared to a 12 million population of two to six year olds that year.

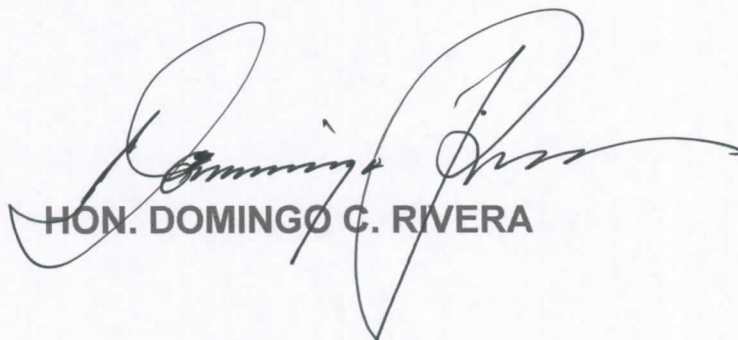
Meanwhile, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reports that 31% of working-age women were not in the labor force in 2011 due to household or family duties.² This means that lack of child care support is a barrier to a woman's opportunity to seek employment.

This bill seeks to address the lack of and accessibility to day care centers, as well as expand the opportunities for women to seek employment, by strengthening the mandate of day care centers by ensuring that day care services are available for the whole duration of the work hours of the working parents and an additional two hours to account for the travel time of the parent to the day center to fetch their child/children, and providing child care financial assistance to parents who are minimum wage earners. This bill also seeks to bridge the gender gap between men and women with regard to child care by clarifying that child care services are available to children of "working parents" and not merely to "working mothers."

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



HON. DOMINGO C. RIVERA

¹ Abulon, Edna Luz. Barangay Day Care Centers: Emergence, Current Status and Implications to Teacher Education. 2013. Retrieved from: https://worldconferences.net/proceedings/gse2013/papers_gse2013/094%20Edna%20Luz%20R.%20Abulon.pdf (date last accessed: July 23, 2019).

² Gender Equality in the Labor Market in the Philippines, at p. 11, citing DOLE Decent Work Statistics Online Database. Asian Development Bank (2013). Retrieved from: <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/31194/gender-equality-labor-market-philippines.pdf> (date last accessed: July 23, 2019).

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Child Care Assistance*
2 *Act.*”
3

4 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State recognizes the Filipino family as the
5 foundation of the nation. Towards this end, the State shall defend the right of children
6 to assistance, which includes proper care and nutrition and establish, maintain, and
7 support a system of education relevant to the needs of people and society.
8

9 **SECTION 3.** Section 3 of Republic Act No. 6972, otherwise known as the Barangay-
10 Level Total Development and Protection of Children Act, is hereby amended to read
11 as follows:
12

13 Section 3. Program Framework. – The total development and protection of
14 children program for day care centers shall be provided for children up to six (6)
15 years of age with the consent of parents: provided, however, that, in case of
16 abused, neglected or exploited children, such consent shall not be required. The
17 program shall include the following:
18

1 ...
2
3 (c) Care for children of working PARENTS [mothers] during the day and, where
4 feasible, care for children up to six (6) years of age when BOTH PARENTS
5 [mothers] are working at night: PROVIDED, THAT SUCH CARE SHALL LAST
6 DURING THE WORK HOURS OF THE WORKING PARENT/S AND AN
7 ADDITIONAL TIME OF UP TO TWO HOURS; PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT
8 THE BARANGAY DAY CARE CENTER SHALL HAVE THE DISCRETION TO
9 COLLECT A REASONABLE FEE FOR CHILD CARE SERVICES RENDERED
10 BEYOND TEN (10) HOURS; provided FURTHER, that the day care center need
11 not to take care of children in a particular place but shall develop network of
12 homes where women may take care of the children up to six (6) years of age of
13 working [mothers] PARENTS during work hours, with adequate supervision from
14 the supervising social welfare officer of the Department of Social Welfare and
15 Development: provided, further, that, where young children are left to the care of
16 paid domestic, an elderly relative or older children without adequate and
17 competent adult supervision, the supervising social welfare officer shall provide
18 such training and adult supervision until the children's care meets adequate
19 standards whereby the children under their care will develop normally as healthy,
20 happy and loved children, even in the absence of their mothers during working
21 hours;
22

23 **SECTION 4.** A new Section 5-A is hereby inserted to read as follows:
24

25 SECTION 5-A. CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE. – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR
26 THE PAYMENT OF CHILD CARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN NOT MORE
27 THAN SIX (6) YEARS OLD SHALL BE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT,
28 THRU THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT;
29 *PROVIDED*, THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE SHALL ONLY BE GRANTED TO
30 PARENT/S WHO ARE MINIMUM WAGE EARNERS; *PROVIDED FURTHER*,
31 THAT SUCH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SHALL BE PAID DIRECTLY TO THE
32 ACCREDITED PRIVATE DAY CARE CENTER AS FEE REDUCTION.
33

34 **SECTION 5. Appropriations.** – An amount of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00)
35 shall be appropriated for the initial year of implementation of this Act. Thereafter, the
36 amount necessary for the proper implementation of this Act shall be included in the
37 annual General Appropriations Act.
38

39 **SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from
40 the implementation of this Act, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, in
41 coordination with other relevant government agencies and upon consultation with
42 relevant stakeholders, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations for the
43 effective implementation of this Act.
44

45 **SECTION 7. Separability Clause.** – Any portion or provisions of this Act that may be
46 declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions
47 and provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions or provisions can still subsist
48 and be given effect in their entirety.
49

1 **SECTION 8. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations
2 and administrative regulations, or any parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby
3 revoked, repealed or modified accordingly.
4

5 **SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national papers of general
7 circulation.
8

9 **Approved,**