

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 4253



Introduced by: **HONORABLE MARISOL C. PANOTES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The problem of drug addition has been given much attention that practically all the agencies of the government, including law enforcement agencies, and in cooperation with non-government organizations and civil society groups, have been involved. However, some more pressing social problems like the abandoned, disadvantaged, disabled and deprived children who continue to wander in most conspicuous places, particularly in Metro Manila, have gotten less care and attention from the government.

It is worthy to mention that "the Child is one of the most important assets of the nation. Every effort should be exerted to promote his welfare and enhance his opportunities for a useful and happy life"¹. However, there have been numerous cases when dependent, abandoned or neglected children were brought to the care of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) eventually ended up wandering in the streets due to lack of care and attention by this agency not to mention the severe lack of place where to bring and provide them shelter. So, where shall the youth and adult be when at the early stage of the human development they are already left to roam and wander aimlessly totally uncared for and no shelter to lay their tired bodies and souls?

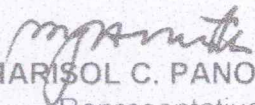
The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning. But where shall these abandoned and disadvantaged children turn to when everything appears to be hopeless. Even Jesus Christ according to the Holy Bible says "Let the children come to me". The government therefore must provide a safe haven so that the street children have a safe refuge.

There is an urgent need therefore for the government to exert efforts in promoting policies that will protect the best interest and welfare of the children.

¹ Presidential Decree No. 603

This bill therefore seeks to establish a Child Welfare Center in every capital town and city under the direct supervision of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

In view of the foregoing reasons, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MARISOL C. PANOTES
Representative
Second District, Camarines Norte

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **4253**

Introduced By: **HONORABLE MARISOL C. PANOTES**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHILD WELFARE CENTER IN
EVERY CAPITAL TOWN, AND CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established a Child Welfare Center in every in capital town and city, under the direct supervision of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to provide the necessary child care, including food, shelter and clothing for children aged ten (10) year-old and below.

SEC. 2. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DSWD under the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 3. The DSWD, in consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall issue the necessary rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,