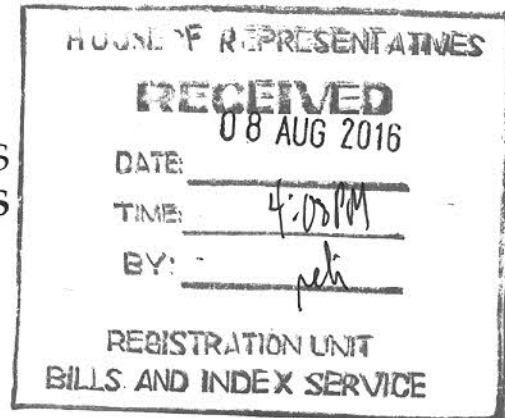


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2651



Introduced by **Honorable Luis Jose Angel N. Campos, Jr.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Rape is not the only devastating tragedy or form of violence that may befall women today. Women are not the only ones susceptible to the suffering and abuses that may be inflicted by today's society. Children are vulnerable and deserve protection and assistance as well. There is a need for the State to provide them with additional assistance in order to empower them and provide them the necessary support not only in times of crisis but also in ordinary times so that they may have an avenue to expand their horizons and advance their learning.

Our Constitutional policies place special emphasis on the rights of women to health and work, it also recognizes their crucial role in nation building.

Our Constitution also dictates that children are also entitled to special care. Section 3, Article XV of the Constitutions provides that the State shall defend:

"The right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development".

The Philippines is also part of the Convention of the "Rights of the Child" and "Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women".

This bill seeks to amend the current Rape Victim Assistance and Protection Act of 1998 or Republic Act No. 8505, in order to upgrade its functions. This bill would convert Rape Crisis Center's to Resource Development and Crisis Assistance Centers. These Centers will provide an avenue for awareness and enhancement programs that would benefit the

women and children of the community. It would aim to provide proactive measures that enhance the welfare of women children such as livelihood generation and skill development programs.

This bill will still contain the reactive action measures such as legal assistance, counseling, and other forms of assistance the victims of may suffer, however, this bill shall include children as a beneficiary of the programs and shall encourage improved assistance to victims. It shall also allow non-government organizations to join the effort.

In recognition of the duty of the State to enhance the welfare of women and children and for the foregoing reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a stylized, flowing script that appears to read 'Luis Jose Angel N. Campos, Jr.'.

LUIS JOSE ANGEL N. CAMPOS, JR.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2651

Introduced by **Honorable Luis Jose Angel N. Campos, Jr.**

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:

1
2 **SECTION 1.** Section 1 of Republic Act No. 8505 shall be amended to
3 read as follows:

4
5 "SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the ["Rape
6 Victim Assistance and Protection Act of 1998"] RESOURCE
7 DEVELOPMENT AND CRISIS ASSISTANCE FOR WOMEN
8 AND CHILDREN ACT OF 2016."

9
10 **SECTION 2.** Section 2 of the same Act is hereby also amended to read
11 as follows:

12
13 "SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared
14 the policy of the State to [provide necessary assistance and
15 protection for rape victims] VALUE THE DIGNITY OF
16 WOMEN AND CHILDREN, DEFEND THEIR RIGHTS, AND
17 RECOGNIZE THEIR ROLE IN NATION-BUILDING AND ALL
18 OTHER IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE AS MAY BE NECESSARY
19 TO PROTECT THEM. Towards this end, the [government shall
20 coordinate its various agencies and non-government
21 organizations to work hand in hand for the establishment and
22 operation of a rape crisis center in every province and city that
23 shall assist and protect rape victims in the litigation of their
24 cases and their recovery.] STATE SHALL ENSURE THE
25 PROTECTION OF THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND

1 SHALL PROVIDE THEM WITH FACILITIES AND
2 OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL ENHANCE THEIR WELFARE
3 AND ENABLE THEM TO REALIZE THEIR FULL
4 POTENTIALS IN THE SERVICE OF THE NATION. THE
5 STATE SHALL ALSO ENDEAVOR TO PROVIDE WOMEN
6 AND CHILDREN WITH UTMOST SUPPORT AND
7 ASSISTANCE WHICH SHALL INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS,
8 LEGAL SERVICES, LIVELIHOOD AND SKILLS
9 DEVELOPMENT, PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING AND
10 ALL OTHER ASSISTANCE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THEM
11 AGAINST ALL FORMS OF NEGLECT, ABUSE, CRUELTY,
12 EXPLOITATION AND OTHER ACTS PREJUDICIAL TO
13 THEIR WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT."

14
15 **SECTION 3.** Section 3 of the same Act is likewise amended to read as
16 follows:

17
18 "SECTION 3. [Rape] RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND
19 Crisis ASSISTANCE Centers. - [The Department of Social
20 Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health
21 (DOH), the Department of the Interior and Local Government
22 (DILG), the Department of Justice (DOJ), and a lead
23 non-government organization (NGO) with proven track record
24 or experience in handling sexual abuse cases, shall establish in
25 every province and city a rape crisis center located in a
26 government hospital or health clinic or in any other suitable
27 place for the purpose of:

28
29 "(a) Providing rape victims with psychological counseling,
30 medical and health services, including their medico-legal
31 examination;

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 "The DSWD shall be the lead agency in the establishment
3 and operation of the Rape Crisis Center.]
4

5 "THERE SHALL BE AN ESTABLISHED RESOURCE
6 DEVELOPMENT AND CRISIS ASSISTANCE CENTERS FOR
7 WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EVERY PROVINCE AND CITY
8 OF THE COUNTRY, HEREIN AFTER REFERRED TO AS THE
9 "CENTERS".
10

11 THESE CENTERS SHALL BE UNDER THE
12 MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION OF THE
13 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND
14 DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) IN CONSULTATION WITH
15 CONCERNED LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs).
16

17 "(A) COMPOSITION OF THE INTER-AGENCY
18 COUNCIL TO BE KNOWN AS THE ADVISORY COUNCIL.
19 AN INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL SHALL BE CONVENED TO
20 SET THE CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF THE SITES OF
21 THE CENTERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TAKING INTO
22 CONSIDERATION THE EXISTING FACILITIES OF THE
23 NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, LGUs, AND
24 NONGOVERNMENT AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS
25 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT. THE
26 COUNCIL SHALL BE COMPOSED OF AUTHORIZED
27 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DSWD, THE DEPARTMENT
28 OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG),
29 THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), THE
30 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), THE DEPARTMENT OF
31 TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI), THE DEPARTMENT OF
32 EDUCATION (DEPED), THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND
33 EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND
34 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA), THE PHILIPPINE
35 COMMISSION ON WOMEN (PCW), THE NATIONAL
36 YOUTH COMMISSION (NYC), THE TECHNICAL
37 EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
38 (TESDA), THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN CONCERNS
39 DIVISION OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
40 (WCCD/PNP), THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER
41 EDUCATION (CHED) AND NONGOVERNMENT/PEOPLE'S
42 ORGANIZATIONS DULY ACCREDITED BY NATIONAL
43 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, SHALL BE INCLUDED AS
44 MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL. THE
45 INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL, DULY CHAIRED BY THE

1 DSWD, SHALL ALSO ACT AS AN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO
2 OVERSEE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
3 CENTERS' PROGRAMS.
4

5 "(B) FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTERS. - THE CENTERS
6 SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS TO ENSURE
7 COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED SERVICES:
8

9 "(1) TO SERVE AS THE VENUE FOR CONSCIOUSNESS-
10 RAISING, CAPABILITY-BUILDING AND FUNCTIONAL
11 LITERACY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS, AMONG
12 OTHERS, THAT WILL ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF
13 ISSUES AND PROMOTE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION;
14

15 "(2) TO UNDERTAKE PROGRAMS GEARED TOWARDS
16 THE DEVELOPMENT OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
17 CARE, SELF-ENHANCEMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT
18 OF SKILLS FOR LIVELIHOOD GENERATION, SOCIAL
19 COMMUNICATION, AND OTHER RELATED SKILLS
20 WHICH WILL HELP WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO BECOME
21 PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY;
22

23 "(3) TO PROVIDE FREE LEGAL SERVICES, MEDICAL
24 ASSISTANCE INCLUDING MEDICO-LEGAL
25 EXAMINATIONS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING
26 TO VICTIMS OF RAPE AND OTHER CASES OF VIOLENCE
27 AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN ENSURING THEIR
28 PRIVACY AND SAFETY;
29

30 "(4) TO UNDERTAKE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO
31 MORAL RECOVERY AND GENDER-SENSITIVE VALUES
32 FORMATION, COUNSELLING, REHABILITATION AND
33 PSYCHOSOCIAL PROGRAMS;
34

35 "(5) TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY SHELTER TO ABUSED
36 WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN;
37

38 "(6) TO ASSIST RAPE VICTIMS OR VICTIMS OF OTHER
39 FORMS OF ABUSES IN THE INVESTIGATION TO HASTEN
40 THE ARREST OF OFFENDERS AND THE FILING OF CASES
41 IN COURT;
42

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

1 AND ABUSES;

2
3 "(8) TO PROVIDE SKILLS TRAINING OR LIVELIHOOD
4 ASSISTANCE TO SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE;

5
6 "(9) TO STRENGTHEN AND FACILITATE LINKAGES
7 OF WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S GROUPS AND
8 ORGANIZATIONS WITH RELEVANT GOVERNMENT
9 AGENCIES AND LGUs TO MAXIMIZE THE DELIVERY OF
10 BASIC AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR WOMEN AND
11 CHILDREN AND ADVOCATE FOR THE PROTECTION AND
12 ADVANCEMENT OF THEIR RIGHTS;

13
14 "(10) TO DEVELOP AND UNDERTAKE A
15 CONTINUING CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TRAINING
16 PROGRAM FOR FRONTLINE SERVICE PROVIDERS
17 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, LAW ENFORCEMENT
18 OFFICERS, PUBLIC PROSECUTORS, LAWYERS,
19 MEDICO-LEGAL OFFICERS, PSYCHOLOGISTS,
20 DEVELOPMENT WORKERS, SOCIAL WORKERS, HEALTH
21 WORKERS, THERAPISTS AND BARANGAY OFFICIALS ON
22 HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES; GENDER
23 SENSITIVITY AND LEGAL/CASE MANAGEMENT OF
24 SITUATIONS/CASES INVOLVING WOMEN AND
25 CHILDREN; AND

26
27 "(11) TO PERFORM SUCH OTHER FUNCTIONS AS
28 MAY BE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE OBJECTIVES OF
29 THIS ACT.

30
31 "(C) CLIENTS OF THE CENTERS. - ALL WOMEN AND
32 CHILDREN UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES
33 SHALL BE ENTITLED TO PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE
34 BY THE CENTERS:

35
36 "(1) VICTIMS OF PROSTITUTION AND SEXUAL
37 EXPLOITATION;

38
39 "(2) VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ABUSE AND
40 BATTERY;

41
42 "(3) VICTIMS OF RAPE, INCEST, SEXUAL ABUSE,
43 HARASSMENT OR MOLESTATION;

44
45 "(4) VICTIMS OF ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT, TRAFFICKING

1 AND/OR LABOR EXPLOITATION;
2

3 "(5) VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICT, NATURAL OR
4 ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS WHO ARE SUFFERING
5 FROM TRAUMA DUE TO THE TRAGIC DEATH OR
6 DISPLACEMENT OF FAMILY MEMBERS, DISLOCATION OR
7 LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD;
8

9 "(6) ABANDONED AND RUN-AWAY WOMEN AND
10 CHILDREN;
11

12 "(7) WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN DETENTION;
13

14 "(8) VICTIMS OF ANY FORM OF VIOLENCE AND
15 SUFFERING FROM ANY CRISIS SITUATION;
16

17 "(9) VICTIMS SUFFERING FROM MENTAL, EMOTIONAL,
18 PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES NEEDING
19 SPECIAL SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE; AND
20

21 "(10) VICTIMS OF OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES AS MAY BE
22 DETERMINED BY THE DSWD.
23

24 "(D) PERSONNEL/STAFF COMPLEMENT OF THE
25 CENTERS. - EACH CENTER SHALL BE HEADED BY A
26 FEMALE DIRECTOR WHO HOLDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE
27 IN SOCIAL WORK OR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OR
28 SIMILAR COURSES, HAS A MINIMUM EXPERIENCE OF
29 FIVE (5) YEARS IN COUNSELING, SOCIAL AND
30 PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES AND OTHER RELATED FIELD
31 OR EXPERIENCE, AND POSSESSES A PROVEN TRACK
32 RECORD AS AN ADVOCATE OF WOMEN'S ISSUES AND
33 EXPERTISE IN GENDER-RESPONSIVE TRAININGS AND
34 PROGRAMS FOR CAPABILITY-BUILDING AND IS OF GOOD
35 MORAL CHARACTER.
36

37 "THE SECRETARY OF THE DSWD, IN CONSULTATION
38 WITH THE HEADS OF THE CONCERNED LGU SHALL
39 APPOINT THE DIRECTOR AND OTHER NECESSARY
40 PERSONNEL OF THE CENTERS, THE STAFF COMPLEMENT
41 OF THE CENTERS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL
42 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
43 (DBM).
44
45

1 "VOLUNTEERS FROM THE VARIOUS
2 NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS MAY EXTEND
3 PROFESSIONAL, HOUSEHOLD, RECREATIONAL AND
4 TRAINING EXPERTISE TO THE CENTERS. STUDENTS OF
5 SOCIAL WORK AND WOMEN STUDIES AND OTHER
6 RELATED PROGRAMS WHO ARE IN PRACTICUM
7 COURSES MAY RENDER VOLUNTARY SERVICES TO THE
8 CENTERS. THE PERSONNEL AND STAFF AS WELL AS
9 VOLUNTEER WORKERS SHALL UNDERGO REGULAR
10 TRAININGS ON HOW BEST TO HANDLE THE DIFFERENT
11 SITUATIONS OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE CENTERS."
12

13 **SECTION 4.** Republic Act No. 8505 is hereby further amended by
14 inserting the following new Sections after Section 3 thereof:
15

16 "SECTION 4. REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT
17 PROGRAM. - THE DSWD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE
18 INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL CONVENED UNDER SECTION
19 3(A) HEREOF, SHALL WITHIN SIX (6) MONTHS FROM THE
20 APPROVAL OF THIS ACT, FORMULATE A PROGRAM FOR
21 THE REHABILITATION, DEVELOPMENT AND
22 PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, MENTIONED
23 IN SECTION 3(B) HERE OF THE COUNCIL SHALL ALSO
24 OVERSEE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
25 PROGRAMS OF THE CENTERS AND MONITOR THE
26 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.
27

28 IT SHALL ALSO ACT AS AN ADVISORY BOARD. "THE
29 DSWD MAY CALL ON NATIONAL AGENCIES AND LGUS,
30 ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL,
31 ORGANIZATIONS TO ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION
32 OF THIS ACT BY WAY OF PROGRAM COLLABORATION
33 AND FUNDING AUGMENTATION AMONG OTHERS.
34

35 "SECTION 5. AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT DONATIONS. -
36 THE DSWD, THROUGH THE PRESIDENT OF THE
37 PHILIPPINES, MAY ACCEPT DONATIONS AND GRANTS,
38 BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN, FOR PURPOSES
39 RELEVANT TO THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTERS, THE
40 DONATIONS AND GRANTS SHALL BE ALLOTTED TO THE
41 VARIOUS CENTERS IN SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE
42 DEEMED BEST' BY THE DSWD OR FOR THE PURPOSES
43 SPECIFIED BY THE DONOR. SUCH DONATIONS AND
44 GRANTS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO PERTINENT
45 ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING RULES AND

1 REGULATIONS."

2
3 **SECTION 5.** Sections 4, 5 and 6 of Republic Act No. 8505 are hereby
4 renumbered accordingly as Sections 6, 7 and 8.

5
6 **SECTION 6.** Sections 7 and 8 of Republic Act No. 8505 are hereby
7 deleted.

8
9 **SECTION 7.** Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the
10 implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the DSWD
11 under the annual General Appropriations Act.

12
13 **SECTION 8.** Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety
14 (90) days upon the approval of this Act, the DSWD and all concerned
15 agencies shall formulate rules and regulations as may be necessary for the
16 proper implementation thereof.

17
18 **SECTION 9.** Separability Clause. - If any part, section or provision of
19 this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, all other parts thereof not
20 affected thereby shall remain valid.

21
22 **SECTION 10.** Repealing Clause. - All laws, acts, presidential decrees,
23 executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent
24 with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended,
25 modified or repeated accordingly.

26
27 **SECTION 11.** Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
28 after the completion of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of
29 general circulation.

30
31 Approved,