



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

22 JUL 28 P5 06

RECEIVED BY:

SENATE

S. B. NO. 930

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Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

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**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.

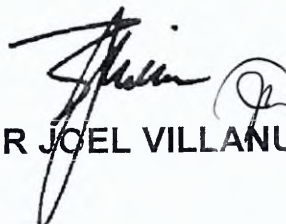
For the day care sector, Presidential Decree No. 1567 mandated the creation of barangay day care centers across the country. To strengthen this policy thrust, the legislature passed Republic Act No. 6972 in 1990 to expand the roles of day care centers to include growth and nutritional monitoring, and 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.<sup>1</sup> 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 twelve million population of two- to six-year-olds that year.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reports that between 29.2% to 35% of working-age women were economically inactive between 1995 to 2017 due to household or family duties.<sup>2</sup> 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.

  
**SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

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<sup>1</sup> Abulon, Edna Luz. Barangay Day Care Centers: Emergence, Current Status and Implications to Teacher Education. 2013. Retrieved from: <https://documents.net/document/barangay-day-care-centers-emergence-patterns-that-are-not-easily-changed-in.html?page=1> (date last accessed: July 18, 2022).

<sup>2</sup> Decent Work Statistics (DeWS) – Philippines Summary Tables 1995-2017, at p.71. Retrieved from: [https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/DeWS%202018\\_updated%20as%20of%20February%202019.pdf](https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/DeWS%202018_updated%20as%20of%20February%202019.pdf) (date last accessed: July 23, 2022).



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

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26 **SEC. 4.** A new Section 5-A is hereby inserted to read as follows:

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

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40 **SEC. 5. Appropriations.** – An amount of Fifty Million Pesos  
41 (P50,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the initial year of implementation of  
42 this Act. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the proper implementation of this  
43 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

44  
45 **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days  
46 from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Social Welfare and  
47 Development, in coordination with other relevant government agencies and  
48 upon consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules  
49 and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

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1           **SEC. 7. Separability Clause.** – Any portion or provisions of this Act that  
2 may be declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying  
3 other portions and provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions or  
4 provisions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

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6           **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders,  
7 proclamations and administrative regulations, or any parts thereof inconsistent  
8 herewith are hereby revoked, repealed or modified accordingly.

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10           **SEC. 9. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
11 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of  
12 general circulation.

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14    Approved,

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