WHEREAS, Section 13 Article III of the 1987 Constitution, recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building. It is imperative for the State to assist them in the formation of all aspects of human development;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 10354 or the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012 guarantees that every person shall have access to a full range of methods, facilities, services and supplies that contribute to reproductive health and well-being by addressing reproductive health-related problems. It also includes sexual health, the purpose of which is the enhancement of life and personal relations;

WHEREAS, RA 10354 also mandates the provision of age- and development-appropriate reproductive health education to adolescents which shall be taught by adequately trained teachers in formal and nonformal educational system and integrated in relevant subjects such as, but not limited to, values formation; knowledge and skills in self-protection against discrimination; sexual abuse and violence against women and children and other forms of gender based violence and teen pregnancy; physical, social and emotional changes in adolescents; and women’s rights and children’s rights;

WHEREAS, despite the implementation of the law for nearly a decade, there has been a rapid increase of unwanted pregnancy among teenagers – which is now considered as a “national and social emergency”;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM) bared the continuous rise in teenage pregnancy, citing a 2019 Philippine Statistics Authority’s report stating that pregnancy among girls aged 15 and below went up by 7 percent in 2019 from 2018;

WHEREAS, a total of 2,411 girls aged 10 to 14 gave birth in 2019 — with a rate of almost seven pregnancies every day — a three-fold increase from 2000, when only 755 from the said age group gave birth;

WHEREAS, the number of teenage mothers in 2019 increased to a total of 62,510, slightly higher than 62,341 in 2018;
WHEREAS, data shows that the increasing trend in minors giving birth had been observed in the last 11 years, suggesting that one out of ten pregnant Filipino women was a teenager;

WHEREAS, POPCOM also said that one in three births among underage children occurred in Region 4A (Calabarzon), National Capital Region and Central Luzon, registering 8,008, 7,546 and 7,523 births, respectively;

WHEREAS, pregnancy among minors is a major health issue, especially for the marginalized sectors who have little to no access to family planning methods, health services and other relevant information on reproductive health;

WHEREAS, minors who are pregnant or who are caring for their newborn babies face worse circumstances amid the COVID-19 pandemic, as reproductive health services and basic social services are inaccessible due to pandemic limitations and age-specific restrictions on mobility;

WHEREAS, a review on the implementation of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law should be conducted in order to address the difficulties in implementing an age and development-appropriate sexuality education and other important government programs under the said law;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House Committee on Population and Family Relations conduct an investigation, in aid of legislation, on the alarming rise in teenage pregnancies among girls aged 15 and below, and to recommend government measures to address the national and social emergency on rising teenage pregnancies.

Adopted,

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