Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2524

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Introduced by **Hon. Charisse Anne C. Hernandez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The state recognizes the vital role of the youth in the nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall include in the youth patriotism and nationalism and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

In relation with the aforementioned provision, it is very alarming to know that in the Philippines the teenage pregnancy incidence is still increasing. According to the data from Philippine Statistics Authority, a total of 183,967 live births among adolescents aged 10-19 years in 2018, equivalent to 504 live births per day in the said age group, and 180, 916 in 2019 for the same age group, equivalent to 495 live births per day.

The United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) reported that Philippine has the highest teenage pregnancy rate in six economic countries in ASEAN with 53 births per 1,000 women-the only country where the rate is increasing. In addition, based on the UNFPA study in 2018, adolescents lose an aggregate lifetime earnings of about P33 Billion due to early childbearing.

Some study shows that the root causes of severe escalation of teenage pregnancy cases in the Philippines are (1) curiosity of the youth or experimentation, (2) peer pressure, (3) family related problems, (4) insufficient knowledge of youth on teenage pregnancy and lastly, liberal views on sex. Teenage pregnancy has brought serious consequences for teenagers involved. It affects every aspect of a teenager who bears a child whether physical and mental well-being while she is pregnant and even after the baby is born. The proposed bill seeks to create a comprehensive policy enabling youth participation in adolescent pregnancy prevention.

The passage of this bill is urgently sought.

CHARISSE ANNE C. HERNANDEZ
Lone District, Calamba City

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AN ACT
CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ENABLING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY PREVENTION

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

SEC 1. ***Short Title.*** The Local Council Adolescent Act of 2022

SEC 2. ***Declaration of Policy.*** It is the policy of the state to protect and promote the right to health and instill health consciousness among the youth by sponsoring programs that will address current health predicaments. Article II, Sec. 12 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution expressly provides that the State shall recognize the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution.

In fulfilling these mandates, the state shall acknowledge the dynamic participation of youth in the nation-building promoting their holistic growth and well-being.

SEC 3. ***Definition of Terms.*** For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

a. Adolescent Pregnancy - an individual belonging to the age group 10-19 who is child-bearing
b. Unwanted Pregnancy - pregnancy that is unplanned at the time of conception
c. Psychosocial Intervention - activities and strategies that aim to improve the health and well-being of individuals and communities in terms of emotional and social factors
d. Policy - a set of ideas or a plan of action followed by a government
e. Youth participation - actively involving young people in decision making processes on personal development and involvement in society

SEC 4. ***Coverage.*** All local government units.

SEC 5. ***Creation of the Local Council on Adolescent Pregnancy.*** The Local Council on Adolescent Pregnancy, hereafter known as the Council, is hereby established under the

SEC 5. ***Creation of the Local Council on Adolescent Pregnancy.*** The Local Council on Adolescent Pregnancy, hereafter known as the Council, is hereby established under the Local Government Unit to provide a coherent, rational, unified and confidential response to the youth with sexual and reproductive health concerns and efforts through the formulation and implementation of the policy and programs.

The Council shall constitute a family-oriented, youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health program, specifically on the prevention, counselling and post-delivery of adolescent pregnancy through the development of effective and efficient structures, systems and mechanisms for legislation and upholding rights.

SEC 6. ***Composition of the Local Council on Adolescent Pregnancy.*** The Local Council on Adolescent Pregnancy shall be headed by the Local Chief Executive, the Local health officer as vice-chairman, the chairman of the committee on health of the Sanggunian, a representative from the private sector or non-government organizations involved in adolescent pregnancy advocacy, representative from the youth organizations or youth-serving organizations as determined by the local health board, and a representative of the Department of Health (DOH) in the locality, as members.

SEC 7. ***Powers and Functions.*** The Council shall exercise the following powers and functions:

(a) Serve as a hub for collaboration and partnerships, where other stakeholders such as the youth, among others, may play an active role in strengthening emerging projects or complement existing programs that will redound to the advancement of adolescent pregnancy health programs in the LGUs.

(b) Serve as the highest policy-making body to decide on matters affecting adolescent pregnancy concerns in the locality;

(b) Propose to the sanggunian concerned, in accordance with standards and criteria set by the Department of Health, annual budgetary allocations for the operation and maintenance of the council, as the case may be;

(c) Serve as an advisory committee to the sanggunian concerned on adolescent pregnancy such as, but not limited to, the necessity for, and application of, local appropriations for public health purposes;

(d) Create regular and special committees that are consistent with the technical and administrative standards of the Department of Health

(e) Cascade the proposals and reports from the grassroots communities, municipalities, cities, and provincial adolescent councils.

(f) Conduct monitoring and pre and post evaluation of adolescent pregnancy projects and programs.

SEC 8. ***Inter-Agency Conference.*** The Department of Health shall coordinate with the Department of Budget and Management, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Education, Commission on Population and National Youth Commission on the

conduct of an inter-agency conference for the establishment of the Council and appointing the interim executive officials of the Council, including the planning ideal means of implementation of the policy and programs.

SEC 9. ***Programs***. There shall be established programs for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, specifically; (1) Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Awareness Week shall be conducted annually every second week of February; (2) Research and Development shall be established for current projects and implementations to make the projects more efficient; (3) Psychosocial Intervention and Support Services that are present in healthcare centers and homecare service facilitation of free psychotherapy and other psychological need in the pre, during and post pregnancy; (4) Data Information Privacy or assurance of preserving the confidentiality of information and (5) Awareness Campaign that shall address the high risk behaviors that contribute to adolescent pregnancy.

SEC 10. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the inter-agency body convened in Section 8 hereof shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of his Act.

SEC 11. ***Appropriation.*** All LGUs shall include in their annual budget the necessary funds for strategies and activities as provided for, within their mandates that are contributory to the implementation of this Act.

SEC 12. ***Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Approved.