

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6748

Introduced by HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF
DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE AMONG HIGH-RISK YOUTH**

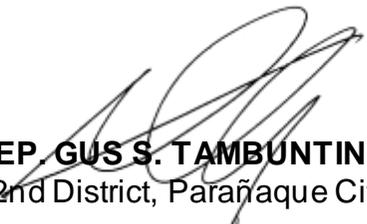
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 13, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that “The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.”

The World Health Organization estimates that in the Philippines, an estimated 1.7 million Filipinos were taking dangerous drugs in 2019.¹ The abuse of illegal drugs and alcohol has been the cause of hundreds of crimes, accidents, and deaths each year. In some cases, sharing of drug paraphernalia can cause the spread of several communicable diseases, including HIV, AIDS, and Hepatitis C.

The bill mandates the Department of Health (DOH) to create financial assistance programs that would assist such organizations in this noble cause, so that the Filipino youth may be saved from the harmful effects of substance abuse and become competent partners in nation-building.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City’s Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. GUS S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

¹ <https://www.who.int/philippines/news/detail/12-11-2021-voluntary-care-model-for-persons-who-use-drugs-resulted-in-over-90-completion-for-treatment-rate>

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

SECTION 1. Title. — This Act shall be known as the "Saving Young Substance
Abusers Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in
Nation-building and shall promote their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social
wellbeing.

SECTION 3. "High-Risk Youth" Defined. — For purposes of this Act, the term "high risk
youth" means an individual who has not attained the age of 18 years, who is at high risk
of becoming, or who has become, a drug abuser or an alcohol abuser, and who —

- (A) Is identified as a child of a substance abuser;
- (B) Is a victim of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse;
- (C) Does not attend school;
- (D) Has become pregnant;
- (E) Is economically disadvantaged;
- (F) Has committed a violent or delinquent act;
- (G) Has experienced mental health problems;
- (H) Has attempted suicide;
- (I) Has experienced long-term physical pain due to injury;
- (J) Has experienced chronic failure in school;

(K) Is from a broken family;

(L) Is a child laborer;

(M) Is a street child or street gang member, or (N) Lives in conflict areas?

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SECTION 4. Grants to Public and Nonprofit Private Entities. — The Secretary of the Department of Health shall make grants to public and nonprofit private entities for projects to demonstrate effective models for the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of drug abuse and alcohol abuse among high-risk youth.

SECTION. 5. Priority of Projects. -

(A) In making grants for drug abuse and alcohol abuse prevention projects, the Secretary shall give priority to applications for projects directed at children of substance abusers, children at risk of abuse or neglect, preschool children, children at risk of dropping out of school, children at risk of becoming adolescent parents, children who do not attend school, child laborers, street children, and children who are at risk of being unemployed.

(B) In making grants for drug abuse and alcohol abuse treatment and rehabilitation projects, the Secretary shall give priority to projects which address the relationship between drug abuse or alcohol abuse and physical child abuse, sexual child abuse, emotional child abuse, dropping out of school, unemployment, delinquency, pregnancy, violence, suicide, or mental health problems.

(C) In making grants under this Act, the Secretary shall give priority to applications from community-based organizations for projects:

(1) To develop innovative models with multiple coordinated services for the prevention or the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abuse or alcohol abuse by high-risk youth.

(2) To demonstrate effective models with multiple coordinated services that may be replicated and which are for the prevention or for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abuse or alcohol abuse by high-risk youth.

(3) That employ research designs adequate for evaluating the effectiveness of the program.

SECTION 6. Strategies for Reducing Use. — The Secretary shall ensure that projects under Section 4 include strategies for reducing the use of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products by individuals to whom it is unlawful to sell or distribute such beverages or products.

SECTION 7. Equal Distribution of Grants. — To the extent feasible, the Secretary shall ensure the equal distribution of grants under this Act among urban and rural areas.

SECTION 8. Application for Grants. — To receive a grant for a project under this Act for a fiscal year, a public or nonprofit private entity shall apply to the Secretary. The Secretary may provide the provincial governor or the city mayor the opportunity to review and comment on such applications. Such application shall be in such form, shall contain such information, and shall be submitted at such time as the Secretary may by regulation prescribe.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. — Any law, presidential decree, or issuance, The executive order, letter of instruction, administrative rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity Clause. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,