

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

5 APR 28 P2:04

SENATE
S.B. No. **1989**

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution provides that:

Article 2, Section 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Article 13, Section 11. The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development -xxx- There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.

In the U.S., an estimated 5,000,000 to 10,000,000 women and girls and 1,000,000 men and boys suffer from eating disorders, including anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating. There is also a noticeable rise in the incidence of eating disorders in Asian countries like the Philippines, North Korea, Japan, Taiwan, China, India, and Pakistan.

Eating disorders can lead to death. According to the U.S. National Institute of Mental Health, 1 in 10 people with anorexia nervosa will die of starvation, cardiac arrest, or other medical complications. Anorexia nervosa is associated with serious health consequences including heart failure, kidney failure, osteoporosis, and death. It has the highest mortality rate of all psychiatric disorders. Bulimia nervosa is associated with cardiac, gastrointestinal, dental problems, irregular heartbeats, gastric rupture, and peptic ulcer. Binge eating is associated with obesity, heart disease, gall bladder disease, and diabetes.

Eating disorders usually begin in adolescence and are associated with substantial psychological problems, including depression, substance abuse, and suicide.

This bill seeks to provide schools and parents with the means and flexibility to detect and prevent eating disorders among students.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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AN ACT

TO PROVIDE EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS, PREVENTION,
AND EDUCATION AMONG ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY, AND
COLLEGE STUDENTS, THEIR PARENTS, AND GUARDIANS

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This act shall be known as “Eating Disorders Awareness, Prevention, and Education Act of 2005.”

SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

(a) “Eating disorder” is a disturbance in eating behavior, such as extreme and unhealthy reduction of food intake (anorexia nervosa) or severe overeating (bulimia nervosa and/or binge eating disorder), as well as feelings of distress or extreme concern about body shape or weight.

(b) “Anorexia nervosa” is an eating disorder characterized by self-starvation and excessive weight loss.

(c) “Bulimia nervosa” is an eating disorder characterized by excessive food consumption followed by inappropriate compensatory behaviors, such as self-induced vomiting, misuse of laxatives, fasting, or excessive exercise.

(d) “Binge eating disorder” is characterized by frequent episodes of uncontrolled overeating.

(e) “Schools” are the elementary, secondary, and college educational institutions.

(f) “DepEd” is the Department of Education.

(g) “CHED” is the Commission on Higher Education.

(h) "DOH" is the Department of Health.

(i) "Congress" is both the Senate and House of Representatives.

SECTION 3. *Innovative Assistance for the Identification of, Training on, and Educational Awareness of Eating Disorders.* – The DepEd, CHED, and DOH shall provide programs to:

(1) improve the identification of students with eating disorders – anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorder, and other eating disorders not otherwise specified, in order that they may receive appropriate medical treatment;

(2) increase awareness of such disorders among parents and students; and

(3) train educators (such as teachers, school nurses, school social workers, coaches, school counselors, and administrators) on effective eating disorder prevention and assistance methods.

SECTION 4. *Public Service Announcements.* – The Secretary of DepEd and the Chairman of CHED, in consultation with the Secretary of DOH, shall carry out a program to develop, distribute, and promote the broadcasting of public service announcements to improve public awareness, and to promote the identification and prevention, of eating disorders.

SECTION 5. *Eating Disorders Research and Report.* - Not later than eighteen months after the enactment of this Act, the DepEd, the CHED, and the DOH shall conduct a study on the impact eating disorders have on educational advancement and achievement. The study shall –

(1) determine the prevalence of eating disorders among students and the morbidity and mortality rates associated with eating disorders;

(2) evaluate the extent to which students with eating disorders are more likely to miss school, have delayed rates of development, or have reduced cognitive skills;

(3) report on current national and local programs to educate youth about the dangers of eating disorders, as well as evaluate the value of such programs; and

(4) make recommendations on measures that could be undertaken to strengthen eating disorder prevention and awareness programs.

SECTION 6. *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 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,