



LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE
KEY POINTS OF PLENARY PROCEEDINGS
Second Regular Session, 19th Congress

Session No. 15
Tuesday, 29 August 2023

1. Senate Bill No. 2019

An Act Instituting Policies for the Protection and Welfare of Caregivers in the Practice of their Occupation

Approved on Third Reading

Motion of Senator Villanueva that Senate President Zubiri, Sen. Dela Rosa, and himself be made coauthors

Manifestation of Senator Estrada

As the Sponsor of the measure, Senator Estrada expressed gratitude to the Body for supporting the Caregivers' Welfare Act that protects the vulnerable but vigorous sector of society. He also thanked the cosponsors, coauthors, resource persons from government agencies like DOLE, TESDA, and DMW, and the association of caregivers, who helped craft the bill.

2. Privilege Speech of Senator Escudero

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Escudero brought to the Body's attention the column written by Mr. Dax Lucas on the bill prohibiting the no permit, no exam policy of schools.

Contending that the allegations were baseless and with no factual basis, the Senator narrated that Mr. Lucas alleged that private schools were not consulted before the passage of the bill despite their efforts for a dialogue with lawmakers, that the Senate passed the said law because of the upcoming national and local elections, and that it is easy for lawmakers to pass a populist piece of legislation even it will cause the demise of the country's private education system.

To correct the misimpression of Mr. Lucas, Senator Escudero pointed out that during the September 22, 2022 committee hearing, COCOPEA board member Mr. Antonio Del Carmen was consulted, and he endorsed and approved the bill. The committee report was then submitted on October 3, 2023. The bill was subjected to interpellations on March 13, 2023, and was approved on March 20, 2023. However, the Senator noted that COCOPEA submitted their position paper on March 21, 2023, or a day after the bill's approval.

Adverting to COCOPEA's position paper, Senator Escudero said that the bill does not impair the obligations and contracts between the student and the school. He further stated that COCOPEA misquoted and cited the Supreme Court decision in *Regina vs. PCTC*, which finds no application to the given situation and even contradicts its position.

Senator Escudero explained that in the same case that they have quoted, the Supreme Court ruled that a contract between the school and the student is imbued with public interest. In another case, the Court also ruled that it is the duty and obligation of the State to ensure the education of the Filipino youth. He opined that in passing the no permit, no exam bill, Congress views that the contract between the school and the student is imbued with public interest and that such may be the subject matter of law to protect the students, who are the disadvantaged ones in the said contract.

The Senator pointed out that there is nothing wrong with passing populist piece of legislation; what is wrong is passing a legislation that caters to lobbyists and big businesses like private schools.

3. Privilege Speech of Senator Estrada

Senator Estrada brought to the Body's attention the viral video of Mr. Wilfredo Gonzales, a former police officer, threatening a cyclist with a gun. He expressed concern and wanted to protect the cyclists and motor riders. He calls on his fellow lawmakers to conduct a hearing to investigate the incident.

The Senator revealed that Mr. Gonzales was dismissed from the PNP due to grave misconduct. The Senator lamented that the Filipinos should not accept the culture of impunity to continue, especially on public roads. He further stated that Mr. Gonzales is dangerous to the cycling, commuting, or riding public.

Motion of Senator Villanueva to refer Senator Estrada's speech to the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

4. Senate Bill No. 2426 under Committee Report No. 107

An Act Mandating the Formulation, Funding, Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation of a Comprehensive and Multi-Year "Tatak Pinoy" (Proudly Filipino) Strategy, Establishing a Tatak Pinoy Council, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes

Sponsorship Speech of Senator Angara

Senator Angara stated that Senate Bill No. 2426, otherwise known as the *Tatak Pinoy* Act or Proudly Filipino Initiative, was a product of his advocacy that received a vote of confidence when President Marcos Jr. himself included it as one of the priority measures during his State of the Nation Address. It was a recognition that it matches with one of the administration's aspirations, which is structural transformation or changing the nation's economic structures, especially in the creation of safe, stable, and quality jobs that, at the same time, are environment friendly.

The Senator believed that the proposed measure also matches with the Philippine Export Development Plan 2023-2028 in terms of improving the quality of domestic products and making them globally competitive; recognizes the critical role of the private sector; and supports local industries for them to become globally competitive in terms of increasing their production, improving the quality of their products and services, and capacitating them so that they can create new industries.

Senator Angara disclosed that when he was campaigning, what stuck in his mind was that one of the primary reasons why poverty is chronic is the lack of jobs that pay well, as well as the lack of opportunities to earn well in the rural areas, and compounding this problem is the exodus of skilled or professional workers to other countries. He said that he eventually realized that the economic structures had hindered the country's progress.

To address this problem, Senator Angara stated that one avenue that he used was through the national budget, infusing additional budget for the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) with roughly P2 billion in the 2020 General Appropriations Act to fund, among other activities, more shared service facilities (SSFs) and fabrication labs, investment promotion activities, participation in international trade fairs, and more road shows. Unfortunately, he said, these funds were included in the "fund sweep" that was used in the Bayanihan 1 Law.

Despite this unfortunate event, he stated that the Committee persevered and conducted online consultations with industry associations, civil society leaders, and local government officials.

He also cited the many initiatives that he took in incorporating the broad objectives of Tatak Pinoy in many of his legislative interventions, among which was the Bayanihan 2 or RA 1494, which focused on keeping the economy afloat through its many provisions which included:

- Explicit preference for locally manufactured personal protective equipment (PPEs);
- Provision of credit to productive sectors of the economy, especially in the countryside;
- Expansion of the existing loan programs of the Small Business Corporation (SBCorp);
- Establishment of low-interest and flexible loan programs by Land Bank and the DBP;
- Comprehensive assistance to tourism enterprises, the hardest hit during the lockdowns;
- E-commerce promotion and technical and financial assistance from government financing institutions to those engaged in online businesses; and
- Support to the agricultural sector.

Senator Angara also mentioned the amendments he introduced to the CREATE Law or RA 11534: giving greater incentives to investors whose activities will generate new knowledge and intellectual property licensed in the Philippines or lead to the commercialization of patents, industrial designs, copyrights, and utility models owned or co-owned by registered businesses; mandating the Fiscal Incentives Review Board to adopt policies for developing and expanding the domestic supply chain, to promote diversification and sophistication of products,

and to cater to local market demand; and mandating the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP) formulated by the Board of Investments (BOI) to include the President's approval of non-fiscal support for creating high-skilled jobs, growing a local pool of globally competitive MSMEs, expanding local supply, and reducing the dependence on imports.

Moreover, the Senator cited the relevant provisions in the 2021, 2022, and 2023 GAA, which include:

- Domestic preference in government procurement;
- Direct purchase by the national and local government of agricultural and fisheries products from local farmers and fisherfolk;
- Funding for new initiatives, such as the formulation of a comprehensive roadmap for electronic vehicles
- More shared service facilities (SSFs);
- Continued funding for training for work programs such as TESDA's Special Training for Employment;
- Low-interest loans from the SBCorp;
- Additional infusions into the Innovation Fund, priority areas for tourism promotion of the DOT, convergence projects of the DPWH such as the Tourism Road Infrastructure Program with the DOT and the Roads Leveraging Linkages of Industry and Trade with the DTI.

Senator Angara noted that this concept of Tatak Pinoy had been tried in previous administrations, like President Quezon's "Made-in-the-Philippines Products Week" and President Garcia's "Filipino First Policy," the many aspects of which were echoed by the proposed Tatak Pinoy Act as they both recognize the important role Filipino industries play in the long-term economic development and prosperity of the country.

He lamented, however, the limited success the country has had, noting the many instances where enterprises in the country scaled down their operations, backed out from expansion, or shut down their factories entirely.

The Senator noted that while there were idiosyncrasies for each case, there were general themes for these closures:

- 1) The production scale was miniscule compared to the car brand's operations in other countries.;
- 2) The Philippines has a limited local supply base, higher taxes, and more expensive business costs; and
- 3) shutdowns did not significantly curtail the sales of these car brands throughout the country.

These, he said, demonstrate the country's long-standing difficulties with economic policy. They underscore that not enough work has been done to keep them in the country, and no single government agency could have resolved the issues themselves quickly enough to keep these enterprises from shutting down.

Senator Angara stated that his determination to push for the enactment of the Tatak Pinoy Act was inspired by the works of Dr. Ricardo Hausmann of Harvard University and Dr. Cesar Hidalgo of Massachusetts Institute of Technology that contained a clear framework that would serve as a guide in determining which industry deserves support. He particularly cited one useful aspect of the two

professors' work, which was how they used big data analysis and creative visualizations to numerically calculate the economic complexity of a given country or economy, enabling them to rank each country based on what has since been called the Economic Complexity Index (ECI).

In the case of the Philippines, Senator Angara revealed that in the world, the country ranked 33rd in the Economic Complexity Index for 2021. However, among the nine ASEAN countries, the Philippines ranked fourth at the top of the ECI, behind Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore, thus suggesting that given its present economic complexity, the country has a lot of potential that has yet to be unlocked.

Senator Angara underscored the need, therefore, to analyze and study how the economy can take off in terms of using and combining forces to produce quality and more sophisticated products, starting in the process what is called a "virtuous cycle" where more jobs are created, and salaries and wages continue to rise. As explained by the two professors using the concept of "person bytes," it means more persons must be involved in the production which, in turn, means more jobs created.

To realize the full potential of the economy, Senator Angara underscored the following:

- The country must specialize and diversify.
- It is not enough to have good engineers, scientists, technicians, managers, and workers; they must be organized, coordinated, and working together towards one goal—to produce new products and offer new services.
- There must be demand for these products and services; thus, improving their marketing and branding is necessary.
- The government and the private sector must work hand in hand; neither the public nor the private sector can manage all the work that needs to be done by themselves.

Senator Angara stated that for the kind of structural transformation required towards greater economic complexity, the private sector needs to step up with the government's help. For true economic development to happen, it must be pursued collectively and collaboratively. The Senator emphasized that supporting domestic industries and hastening the process of transforming the Philippine economy demands that stakeholders from the public and private sectors organize, plan, align, and integrate their respective efforts.

To demonstrate, the Senator referred to the experience of other countries, like South Korea, Romania, and Thailand. He stated that there is no shortage of success stories in other countries, from which the Philippines could learn, especially on how they were able to assist and expand their domestic industries.

Senator Angara emphasized that the Tatak Pinoy bill is all about institutionalizing a multisectoral programmatic, evidence-based, and market-driven policy framework through which government agencies and the private sector work together towards empowering domestic enterprises, making them globally competitive and assisting them to produce more sophisticated products, more exceptional world-class services, taking the whole-of-nation approach espoused by the administration.

He said that the crux of the proposed measure is to mandate all relevant government agencies to work in tandem with the private sector and ensure that

their individual efforts jibe towards helping Filipino enterprises produce better products and offer world-class services to create better jobs and income opportunities across the country.

Towards this end, Senator Angara stated that the bill proposes the following:

- Creation of a Tatak Pinoy Council to be in charge of formulating, funding, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and continuously improving upon the country's Tatak Pinoy strategy, which shall serve as the action plan supplementary to the Philippine Development Plan;
- Ensuring that Tatak Pinoy activities shall have access to credit, mandating GFIs to provide low interest or flexible term loans to various industries;
- Mandating the Tatak Pinoy Council to help Philippine companies enter the domestic and international markets;
- Mandating all government instrumentalities to prioritize domestically produced and manufactured products, supplies, and materials with specified and desired quality.

Senator Angara informed the Body that in the many hearings, meetings, and consultations conducted before coming out with the committee report, the Committee gained new insights on where the public and private sectors can work together and how the country can move forward with pursuing the Tatak Pinoy strategy. He cited, among others, the following:

- The government must be flexible and creative in providing different kinds of industry support as a form of public good;
- In creative industries, support in terms of international exposure would help them tremendously.

He noted that the policy direction of the whole-of-government approach is essentially patronizing local products. Still, he acknowledged that, as pointed out during the hearings, there is some ambiguity with the language of the rules on procurement, that instead of being at the forefront of promoting local products and supporting domestic suppliers, the government may end up curtailing their participation in government procurement.

He also recalled the concerns raised during the hearings, like how the private sector could be incentivized and motivated to produce more and better products if they are informed beforehand of what the government wants.

The Senator observed that the issue of poor harmonization between government policies comes perpetually and should, therefore, be addressed. He further mentioned the problem of brain drain and to address this through significant reforms, such as strengthening local industries and ensuring the availability of high-paying jobs; thus, this Tatak Pinoy initiative would significantly help address this issue of brain drain, in addition to encouraging Filipinos abroad to come home and become some form of technology transfer given their exposure and training to highly sophisticated ways of doing things.

Senator Angara stated that Tatak Pinoy is about more than just making domestic products and services more sophisticated and more globally competitive. It is also about eliciting pride and hope from the people, empowering themselves as a nation to present a new or previously unknown side of themselves, and to project both hard and soft power in their culture and talent to the rest of the world. As pointed out by experts during the hearings, there needs to be more awareness of who the Filipinos are and their identity.

Senator Angara hoped that the Tatak Pinoy Council could make it easier for the public and private sectors to fill the gaps in the value chain of specific industries, identify the particular product opportunities that the country can enter, determine the actions needed, and then sustain the initiatives until a new industry has been built.

Finally, He believed that Tatak Pinoy could solve cross-cutting problems like poverty, inclusive growth, trade and current account deficit, unemployment, underemployment, low salaries, and rural-to-urban migration, among many others.

Motion of Senator Villanueva that the cosponsorship speeches of Senators Binay, Legarda, Revilla, Estrada, Cayetano (P), and Tolentino be inserted into the *Record*

Cosponsorship Speech of Senator Villanueva

Senator Villanueva noted that the Philippines ranked 52nd out of 64 economies in the 2023 World Competitiveness Yearbook ranking. The annual report assesses how countries provide an environment characterized by efficient infrastructures, institutions, and policies that encourage sustainable value creation by enterprises. According to the Senator, the country's ranking means that the country still has so much to improve in achieving global competitiveness. Hence, he supports the proposed measure that aims to support, strengthen, and enrich the production of Philippine products to make them more sophisticated and world-class.

He stated that the proposed measure would adopt a Tatak Pinoy strategy, a six-year action plan on the expansion and diversification of productive capabilities of domestic enterprises to make Philippine products and services more globally competitive.

Moreover, he said that the measure will also help address the Filipinos' preference for imported products and reduce the country's trade deficit, which now stands at \$3.9 Billion in June 2023.

Lastly, when enacted into law, the bill would help modernize the country's agriculture industry, harness the manufacturing sector, and increase the overall share of the country's economy and job creation.

Senator Villanueva explained that the institutionalization of Tatak Pinoy initiatives will not only promote the country's brand and identity but will also lift millions of Filipinos out of poverty thereby lowering the poverty rate, creating more jobs, and achieving the projected 4% to 5% unemployment rate by 2026.

In closing, Senator Villanueva stated that the measure complements section 17 of RA 11641 on the full-cycle and comprehensive national reintegration program for documented and undocumented OFWs.

Manifestation of Senator Hontiveros

The Deputy Minority Leader said that in addition to the Tatak Pinoy bill being possibly the newest incarnation of the Filipino First Policy, it may also become part or eventually a full expression of the industrial policy that lawmakers have been discussing about on and off for several years.

5. Bicameral Conference Committee Report on the Disagreeing Provisions of Senate Bill No. 2165 and House Bill No.7006

Report of Senator Ejercito

The Chairperson of the Senate panel, Senator Estrada reported the following:

- 1) Under the reconciled version, the conferees agreed to classify the local government units into five income classes.
- 2) The sixth income classification was rendered irrelevant since only five municipalities remained under the sixth income classification and no city or province under the said category. Such was because of the proposed adjustment of income threshold under the Senate version.
- 3) The Conference Committee adopted an adjusted income threshold for provinces, to wit:
 - First-class - P1,500,000,000 billion or more average annual regular income under the Senate version;
 - Second class – average annual regular income P900 million or more but less than P1.5 billion;
 - Third class –average annual regular income of P700 million or more but less than P900 million;
 - Fourth class –average annual regular income of P500 million or more but less than P700 million; and
 - Fifth class – average annual regular income of less than P500 million.
- 4) For cities and municipalities, the income thresholds under the Senate version were adopted in the reconciled bill.
- 5) The administrative authority of the Secretary of Finance under Section 5 of the reconciled bill was further strengthened through a proposal to include the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) as the recommending agency in upgrading LGUs to higher income classification based on their growth in real per capital locally sourced revenue.
- 6) The reconciled bill also restored as one of the uses of income classification the compensation adjustment for personnel of LGUs pursuant to the Salary Standardization Law of 2019.

Approval of the Bicameral Conference Committee Report on the Disagreeing Provisions of Senate Bill No. 2165 and House Bill No.7006

Manifestation of Senator Pimentel III

The Minority Leader explained that he registered his negative vote on the approval of the Bicameral Conference Committee Report because of the delegation of power, which he believed was an undue delegation of legislative power.

Manifestation of Senator Hontiveros

The Deputy Minority Leader joined Senator Pimentel's negative vote on the bill because of the undue delegation of legislative power principle.

6. Senate Bill No. 2243 under Committee Report No. 85

An Act Strengthening and Revitalizing the Salt Industry in the Philippines, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes

Sponsor : Sen. Cynthia A. Villar

Interpellation of Sen. Pimentel III

Senator Pimentel inquired why in the letter of the Sponsor sent to Senator Dela Rosa on the possible areas where the salt industry can be developed and salt can be produced, Mindanao was not mentioned. Senator Villar (C) explained that Mindanao has only three months of dry season, while producing salt requires six months of dry season. She confirmed that only three hectares in Region X were identified as currently being used for salt production, although Mindanao, as a whole, has 17.75 hectares that have potential for salt production.

As regards the ten provinces that were identified in the bill, Senator Pimentel inquired on the mechanism to be used in identifying additional areas for salt production. The Sponsor clarified that the ten provinces were identified as priority areas since they are already the biggest producers of salt. She said that nothing in the bill would prevent other provinces from seeking assistance from the government if they want to go into salt production.

Senator Pimentel suggested that the Salt Council should come up with very clear guidelines on how to start a salt-making business so that outside the ten already identified provinces, the others could also seek assistance from the government. In reply, the Sponsor pointed out that the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) was actually given P100 million to help the salt industry.

Upon request of Senator Pimentel, Senator Villar (C) gave a breakdown of how the P100 million was spent, to wit: P52 million to Region I, P21 million to Region VI, and P13.5 million to Region IX, and P12 million to the National Fisheries and Research Development Agency. She said the money was spent on cooking materials, packaging materials, salt storage, warehouse, cooking structure, and capacity building, among many other activities.

Asked from where the P100 million was sourced, the Sponsor replied that it was part of the budget of BFAR under the General Appropriations Act. She stated that before the enactment of the Salt Iodization Law, the local salt industry was already producing 93% of the salt requirements of the country, while 7% was imported. However, when the Salt Iodization Law was passed, the reverse happened, with 93% imported and 7% locally produced. She attributed the

deterioration of the salt industry to the government's failure to teach the farmers about salt iodization. Without the proper technological know-how, they stopped production because of the wrong impression that they were being required to produce 100% iodized salt when, in fact, upon review, only 40% of the demand should be iodized. In comparison, 60% need not be iodized.

Senator Pimentel then inquired how large the market is for salt in the Philippines and in the world. Senator Villar gave the following breakdown: for food – 443,000 metric tons; for manufacture of food – 95,000 metric tons; coconut fertilization – 694,000 metric tons; for industrial uses – 144,000 metric tons, or a total of 1,377,000 metric tons. She affirmed that for a kilogram of imported salt, the cost is P5, while for a kilogram of local salt, the cost is P8 because the local salt industry is not mechanized yet. She hoped that the tariff collected from salt importation could be used to mechanize the local industry because once mechanized, the cost could drop to P4.50 per kilogram.

On whether the salt industry could aspire to become an exporter under the bill, Senator Villar (C) replied that it would take time given the very low level of production at present. The ones exporting are those making artisanal salt, which cannot be helped under the bill because they employ the old method of production. However, she agreed with Senator Pimentel that the Salt Council could develop a specialized program for artisanal salt.

On whether salt production could only come from salt water, Senator Villar (C) replied in the affirmative, even as she acknowledged the possibility of discovering salt mines in the future. She hoped that new technologies would be later discovered through research, which is, after all, funded under the bill.

Asked why the word "living" was used to describe the sea or ocean, the Sponsor replied it was simply a description of the ocean or sea where the salt farms would be built. Relative thereto, she informed the Body that NAMRIA had discovered 35,000 hectares of coastal areas suited for salt farms. However, the DENR is only willing to give 11,000 hectares. If added to the present 2,100 hectares of salt farms, it would be more than enough to use them and make the country self-sufficient in salt, especially if mechanization of the industry succeeds, thus possibly tripling salt production. She agreed nevertheless to delete the word "living" if Senator Pimentel so desires.

However, Senator Pimentel pointed out that tariff collection would also decrease once salt importation decreases, resulting in reduced financial assistance for mechanization. He then asked if the tariff rate could be increased to 9% to ensure the availability of funds for mechanization without depending on the GAA. The Sponsor replied that the proposed increase could be done since there is no conflict with any treaty the country entered into with other countries.

On whether the bill classifies salt as an aquatic resource, Senator Villar (C) replied in the affirmative. However, she admitted that the DENR and BOC classified salt as mineral, while the present Asin Law did not define what kind of product salt is.

Senator Pimentel noted that, under the bill, there is a change of policy already insofar as salt iodization is concerned, thus allowing salt farmers to produce non-iodized salt. The Sponsor explained that salt iodization is only required in food,

which should, therefore, fall under the jurisdiction of the FDA. She agreed with Senator Pimentel that the Asin Law prejudiced the salt producers.

Senator Villar (C) also agreed with Senator Pimentel that the roadmap would be interpreted as similar to the salt development programs and its development plans so that they should be combined as one by amendment.

Asked how the representative from the business sector to the Salt Council would be chosen, Senator Villar (C) replied that the representative shall be chosen by the BFAR director from among the three nominees submitted to the agency.

Regarding the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), the sponsor said it is an agency in the Department of Agriculture that extends credit to farmers.

As regards the salt production tenurial instrument, Senator Pimentel pointed out the rule that it shall be strictly used for the purpose for which it was granted, and that public land with salt farms shall not be converted to other uses other than for fisheries and aquaculture purposes. The sponsor clarified that the salt farm will be used for salt production during the dry season, but during the rainy season, it could be used for aquaculture so that the farmer will have an additional source of income.

On whether the Committee has abandoned the requirement that the applicant for an SPTI must have an investible fund in the amount of P1 million per hectare, the Sponsor replied in the affirmative.

On whether there is a projection that investment in the industry will earn, Senator Villar (C) replied that once the farm is mechanized, the produce would triple, and the estimated ROI is 55% in two years. She explained that assistance to mechanization means the provision of a water pump, road grader, dump truck, and fabrication of a semi-automated bagging machine, among others. She clarified further that the assistance will be given to cooperatives or associations, and the marginalized will be given the priority.

Asked how long the fishpond lease agreement (FLA) term is, the Sponsor replied that it is 25 years. She said the FLA holder can apply for a permit to use a portion of the land for salt production.

Regarding the certificate of registration to be issued by the BFAR to a salt producer on whether there are grounds that can be used to deny the application for a certificate of registration, Senator Villar (C) stated that the purpose of registration is to determine the list of beneficiaries. She assured that the bill would not affect the rich salt producers.

Asked on the value of artisanal salt, the Sponsor stated producers of artisanal salt are only a small portion of the industry.

Senator Legarda interjected to explain that artisanal salt involves the traditional age-old methods of producing salt.

On how the government can give preference to locally produced salt in government purchases, the Sponsor replied that the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), in particular, is mandated to buy salt from local producers for the coconut industry.

On whether there is a plan to change the distribution of the SIDCEF, the Sponsor replied in the affirmative, giving the breakdown as follows: 50% for salt machinery and equipment for mechanization; 40% for salt warehouses and storage areas; 5% for extension services or training; and 5% for research and development. She said that the 5% for the CDA was deleted because of the assurance that the BFAR will take care of the work of the CDA.

7. Senate Bill No. 2200 under Committee Report No. 66

An Act Promoting Mental Health and Well-Being in Basic Education By Institutionalizing a School-Based Mental Health Program, Establishing Care Centers, Prescribing the Creation of New Plantilla Positions of Mental Health Specialists and Mental Health Associates in The Department of Education, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes

Sponsor : Sen. Win Gatchalian

Amendments of Senator Gatchalian

Senator Gatchalian moved for the following amendments and the Body approved:

- 1) Insertion of the acronym CGCP; and
- 2) Insertion of the following sentence as the new last paragraph of section 5:

IN ADDITION TO IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM AND DELIVERING THE SERVICES OF THE CENTER UNDER THIS ACT, MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS AND MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATES SHALL LIKEWISE ASSIST THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR IN THE CGCP CENTERS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SEC. 5 OF R.A. NO. 11206.

This amendment from Sen. Pia Cayetano ensures that the school administrators in CGCP centers will continue to be assisted by the guidance counselors or the trained career and employment guidance counselors not registered with the Professional Regulation Commission, whose items will later be converted to Mental Health Specialists or Mental Health Associates.