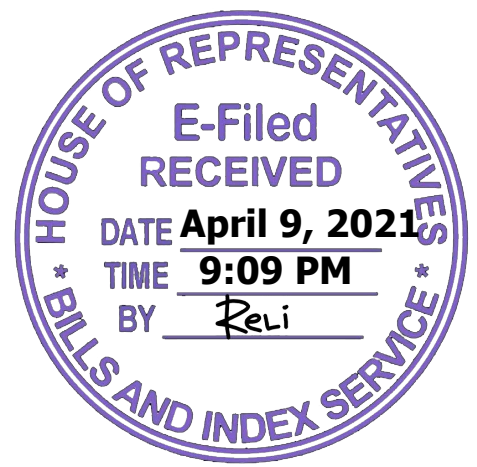


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9186**



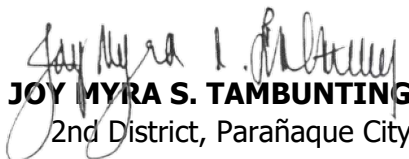
Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

During the recent years, there has been an increase in rates of body satisfaction among the youth globally. In Asia, there has been a growing prevalence of eating disorders among the youth. Eating disorders, such as anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and others, have detrimental health consequences such as obesity, heart disease, gall bladder disease, and diabetes, heart failure, kidney failure, osteoporosis, and death. Anorexia nervosa has the highest mortality rate of all psychiatric disorders—making a young woman twelve (12) times more likely to die than other women her age without anorexia.

Considering this detrimental health consequences, it is the responsibility of the State to adopt measures towards the identification and prevention of eating disorders especially among the youth. As eating disorders typically begin during adolescence, this measure seeks to (1) provide increase public awareness on eating disorders; and (2) capacitate and provide parents, guardians and educators the means and flexibility to improve awareness of, identify, and help students with eating disorders.

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. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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HOUSE BILL NO. **9186**

Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
TO PROVIDE EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS, PREVENTION, AND EDUCATION
AMONG SECONDARY AND TERTIARY STUDENTS, THEIR PARENTS, AND GUARDIANS

Be it enacted by the Senate and 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.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Pursuant to this, the State must adopt measures to address the prevalence of eating disorders among the youth. Towards this end, this measure seeks to (1) provide increase public awareness on eating disorders; and (2) capacitate and provide parents, guardians and educators the means and flexibility to improve awareness of, identify, and help students with eating disorders.

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

- a) “Eating disorder” means 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” means an eating disorder characterized by self-starvation and excessive weight loss.
- c) “Bulimia nervosa” means 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” means frequent episodes of uncontrolled overeating.
- e) “Schools” mean the elementary, secondary, and college educational institutions.
- f) “DepEd” means the Department of Education.
- g) “CHED” means the Commission on Higher Education.
- h) “DOH” is the Department of Health.
- i) “Congress” means both the Senate and House of Representatives.

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

- a) 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;
- b) Increase awareness of such disorders among parents and students; and
- c) 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. Implementation of Public Education Campaign. – 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 –

- a) Determine the prevalence of eating disorders among students and the morbidity and mortality rates associated with eating disorders;
- b) 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;
- c) 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
- d) 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,