

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 422



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Introduced by Representative Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr.

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**A RESOLUTION**  
**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INTEGRATE INTO THE CURRICULUM OF THE ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION (K TO 12) PROGRAM, A MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS COURSE IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECONDARY HIGH SCHOOLS AND TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTIONS 23 AND 24 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11036, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE MENTAL HEALTH LAW**

**WHEREAS**, Article II, Section 15 of the Philippine Constitution provides that "*The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.*"

Section 16 also guarantees "*that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;*"

**WHEREAS**, Sections 23 and 24 of Republic Act No. 11036, otherwise known as the *Philippine Mental Health Law* provides that, "*The State shall ensure the integration of mental health into the educational system, as follows:*

*SEC. 23. Integration, of Mental Health into the Educational System. - The State shall ensure the integration of mental health into the educational system, as follows;*

*(a) Age-appropriate content pertaining to mental health shall be integrated into the curriculum at all educational levels: and*

*(b) Psychiatry and neurology shall be required subjects in all medical and allied health courses, including post-graduate-courses in health.*

*SEC. 24. Mental Health Promotion in Educational Institutions. - Educational institutions, such as schools, colleges, universities, and technical schools, shall develop policies and programs for students, educators, and other employees designed to: raise awareness on mental health issues, identify and provide*

*support and services for individuals at risk, and facilitate access, including referral mechanisms of individuals with mental health conditions to treatment and psychosocial support.*

*All public and private educational institutions shall be required to have a complement of mental health professionals.”*

**WHEREAS**, in the observance of the World Suicide Prevention Day last September 10, 2019, the World Health Organization launched the “**40 seconds of action**” campaign to raise awareness of the scale of suicide around the world and the role that each of us can play to help prevent it, considering that close to 800,000 people die due to suicide every year, which is equivalent to one person every 40 seconds;

**WHEREAS**, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority, the Philippines has the highest number of depressed people in Southeast Asia, with mental health illness as being the third most common form of disability in the country, especially among teens and children aged 5 to 15 with 3.3 million suffering from depressive disorders, and suicide rates in 2.5 males and 1.7 females per 100,000;

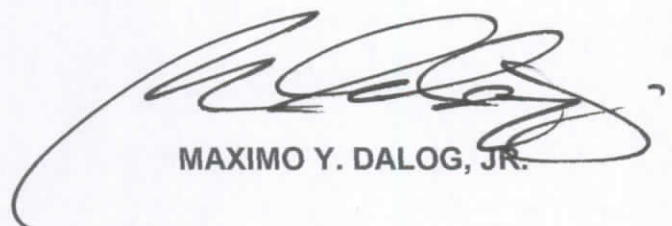
**WHEREAS**, records from the Philippine Health Information System on Mental Health (PHIS-MH) reveal that the leading causes of mental health disorder in the country include: schizophrenia, depression, anxiety disorder, schizo-affective disorder, acute and transient disorder, stimulant-related disorder and suicide according to the 2,500 data entries recorded in the system across 14 government and private hospitals and health care facilities and institutions nationwide, with 42% of patients diagnosed as living with schizophrenia, 15% with bipolar disorder and 6% with a history of substance abuse;

**WHEREAS**, from 2009 to 2016, the number of deaths in the Philippines due to suicide continuously rose beyond 2,000 plus annually according to records from the Civil Registration Service and Vital Statistics Division of the Philippine Statistics Authority;

**WHEREAS**, these reports and figures are not only very alarming and worrying as they also pose danger to our youth and children; thus the need to address the problem on suicide and mental health in our country is inevitable;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of Representatives to urge the Department of Education to integrate into the curriculum of the Enhanced Basic Education (K to 12) Program, a mental health awareness course in all public and private high schools and to facilitate the implementation of Sections 23 and 24 of Republic Act No. 11036, otherwise known as the *Philippine Mental Health Law*.

ADOPTED.



MAXIMO Y. DALOG, JR.