



CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

No to the Reproductive Health Bill

Given our position on **The Reproductive Health Bill** authored by Representatives **Edcel Lagman, Janette Garin, Narciso Santiago III and Ana Theresa Hontiveros-Baraquel**, we, members of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines Board of Directors, representing 1,256 Catholic schools nationwide, hereby affix our signatures to register strong opposition to its passage.

- We stand by the Church as she respectfully signified her strong objection to the contraceptive program the Bill promotes, considering the practices which it shall engender.
- We call the attention of lawmakers to the nature and effects of contraceptives that violate the provisions in the Philippine Constitution on the protection of the life of the unborn from the first moment of fertilization/conception.
- Moreover, the Church also poses serious objections in that this contraceptive program, while supposedly championing the cause of women, ignores instances where women's rights are violated.
- We fault the Department of Health for paying mere "lip service" to Natural Family Planning (NFP). Greater promotion of the more scientific and morally consistent option of the NFP must be done. Both Sacred Scripture and Reason propose that the best form of birth regulation is self-discipline.
- The six years of value-free sex education that the Bill proposes violates the rights of parents to keep watchful guard over the moral education of their children.
- The Church also strongly opposes the use of the term "Reproductive Health" as defined in the proposed Bill since it is made synonymous with abortion packaged as a method of family planning.
- Finally, the proposed Bill as well as the Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009 is setting aside more than 2 billion pesos from tax payer's money for the purchase of contraceptives. This is money that could instead be used to provide education, livelihood and basic public services.

In view, we commit:

1. to pray for the lawmakers who champion life, as we pray even more for those whom we ask not to look upon the human person as a mere being;
2. to engage ourselves in intensive catechesis on family enshrined in Paul VI's "Humanae Vitae" and John Paul II's "Evangelium Vitae";
3. preserve the integrity of the Christian family and life by promoting programs such as "Subtle Attacks against the Family Explained (SAFE)" the like; and
4. to appreciate "the discipline of the desert" that we may be strengthened to withstand the fleeting attraction offered by a materialistic-oriented lifestyle.


We reiterate that we are against the passage of the Reproductive Health Bill.


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Signed September 29, 2008