



## **ALLiance for the FAMILY Foundation Philippines, Inc. (ALFI)**

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August 5, 2008

**The Honorable Cong. Edcel C. Lagman**

Chairman, Committee on Appropriations

The House of Representatives

Constitution Hills, Quezon City 1126

Re: Proposed House Bill, the “Reproductive Health and Population Development Act of 2007”

Dear Chairman Lagman:

We understand that the Committee on Appropriations will be conducting a hearing to consider the Reproductive Health and Population Development Act of 2007.

As a family association that has been monitoring similar bills since the 11<sup>th</sup> Congress, we are exercising our Constitutional right to participate in the planning and implementation of policies and programs affecting Filipino families.

We are enclosing our Position Paper in opposition to the funding of this Bill.

Very truly yours,

*(original signed)*

Dionisio Donato T. Garciano

President

Encl. a/s

## UNCONSTITUTIONAL DEPRIVATION OF LIFE

### A Position Paper Against the Reproductive Health and Population Development Act of 2007:

#### AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL POLICY ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*Introduced by HONORABLES EDCCEL C. LAGMAN, JANETTE L. GARIN, NARCISO D. SANTIAGO III,  
MARK LLANDRO MENDOZA, ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA, ANA THERESA HONTIVEROS-  
BARAQUEL*

Honorable Legislators of the Committee, we come before you on behalf of the **ALLIANCE FOR THE FAMILY FOUNDATION** in **defense of the DIGNITY OF LIFE, the DIGNITY OF THE POOR**, and the institutions of **MARRIAGE and the FAMILY** in the Philippines.

This bill should not be funded for the following reasons:

**The most popular artificial contraceptives kill developing babies. State funding will therefore vitiate the Constitution.**

The bill under consideration states that “Hormonal contraceptives, intrauterine devices, injectables and other allied reproductive health products and supplies shall be considered under the category of essential medicines and supplies which shall form part of the National Drug Formulary and the same shall be included in the regular purchase of essential medicines and supplies of all national and local hospitals and other government health units.”

Hormonal contraceptives have two methods of action. In addition to preventing ovulation during most of a user’s menstrual cycles, they routinely cause early abortions in their users because of the phenomenon of breakthrough ovulation and conception, which occurs perhaps once every ten or twenty monthly cycles for a woman who has frequent sexual relations. Because these contraceptives cause changes in the endometrium, the lining of the uterus, in a way that makes it impossible for the newly conceived baby to implant, hormonal contraceptives cause the baby’s expulsion from the uterus, and death. Even pro-contraception, pro-abortion literature confirms this, for example in a research report of the Alan Guttmacher Institute, the research institute of the Planned Parenthood foundation of the U.S., stating that all hormonal contraceptive drugs and devices, including emergency contraceptives, “also may prevent pregnancy either by preventing fertilization by blocking the sperm and egg from uniting or by preventing implantation of a fertilized egg in the uterine lining.”<sup>1</sup> [underscoring ours] Many other such examples could be cited. Thus, even abortion advocates/contraception advocates accept that contraceptives prevent implantation and therefore act as abortifacients.

Regarding intrauterine devices, there is extensive scientific data indicating that one of their mechanisms of action is to prevent implantation and thus cause early abortions. No one has disproven this mechanism, so it must be considered as, at the very least, possible.

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<sup>1</sup> Kaeser, Lisa. “What Methods Should Be Included in a Contraceptive Coverage Insurance Mandate?” *The Guttmacher Report on Public Policy*. September 1998 in <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/tgr/01/5/gr010501.pdf> and Cohen, Susan A., “Objections, Confusion Among Pharmacists Threaten Access to Emergency Contraception,” *The Guttmacher Report on Public Policy*. June 1999 in <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/tgr/02/3/gr020301.html>

Article II, Section 12 of the Philippine Constitution states, “The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception.” [underscoring ours] In addition to being positive law, this section of our Constitution is clearly a statement of moral – and even religious – principle, taking up as it does the concept of sanctity, which does not exist in law or science.

Because the use of hormonal contraceptives and intrauterine devices will kill innocent Filipinos, possibly numbering in the millions over the years, appropriating funds for the State to dispense them would absolutely violate the clearly stated protection of unborn human life contained in Article II, Section 12. It would be not only illegal under the Constitution, but, as noted, immoral according to the stated will of our people embodied in that Constitution. If the Reproductive Health and Population Development Act of 2007 is enacted into law, one of two things will occur. Either it will correctly be overturned by the Supreme Court because it violates the Constitutional protection of life, or it will be established that the guarantees contained in the Constitution do not actually mean what they say – and therefore protect NO ONE, not just babies in the womb. There is no third option.

Our nation is made up predominantly of persons holding to the Christian and Moslem faiths. Both of these faiths regard human life in the womb as sacred. For the State to deliberately fund its destruction on a mass scale is absolutely repugnant to this belief.

This bill has been proposed by its authors in good faith. They look around them and see the difficulties and even suffering of many Filipino families, and particularly of women, on whom heavy burdens fall. They are desperate for a way to help, as we all should be, and must be. The atheistic, nihilistic First World, which demographers tell us is dying away, is only too glad to offer one: the contraceptive, sexualized society which is a major contributor to the ongoing disintegration of its own families and societies. This is the First World that no longer finds any intrinsic value in a human being, but only in what he or she can do – there are numerous cases of disabled persons being starved to death there, even by judicial decree, which is acceptable by their standards, since the victims are unable to protest. We Filipinos are heirs to a better culture. Yes, we have endemic corruption, and many other vices. But we still know the value of a human life – when Mom is too old to get out of bed by herself, or perhaps even to speak, we don’t starve her to death – we continue to care for her and love her.

There are many serious problems with this bill in addition to the death sentences it will impose on countless newly-conceived babies in their mothers’ wombs. These are the problems that arise from the contraceptive, sexualized society it would impose on our beloved Philippines – a society which is creating personal and familial misery all over the world. However, we can debate those another day. Today let us simply recognize that this bill can not, indeed must not, become law, if we accept our own Constitution, and the inestimable value it places on each and every Filipino life.

For the **ALLIANCE FOR THE FAMILY FOUNDATION (ALFF):**

*(original signed)*

Dionisio Donato T. Garciano  
President