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**SENATE**

**P.S. Res. No. 686**

**Introduced by SENATOR WIN GATCHALIAN**

**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO DECLARE SEPTEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS "NATIONAL FAMILY MONTH" IN LINE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE MANDATES, DECLARATIONS, AND POLICIES, AS WELL AS EXECUTIVE ISSUANCES, ENJOINING ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY TO UNDERTAKE AND SUSTAIN POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND INITIATIVES THAT PROTECT, STRENGTHEN, AND PROMOTE THE SOLIDARITY AND TOTAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE FILIPINO FAMILY**

**WHEREAS**, Section 12, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that "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. The natural and primary right and duty of parents in the rearing of the youth for civic efficiency and the development of moral character shall receive the support of the Government";

**WHEREAS**, Section 1, Article XV of the 1987 Constitution further decrees that "The State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation. Accordingly, it shall strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development", and in Section 2 thereof establishes that "Marriage, as an inviolable social institution, is the foundation of the family and shall be protected by the State";

**WHEREAS**, Section 3, Article XV of the 1987 Constitution specifies that the State shall defend:

"1. The right of spouses to found a family in accordance with their religious convictions and the demands of responsible parenthood;
2. The right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse,

cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development;

3. The right of the family to a family living wage and income; and

4. The right of families or family associations to participate in the planning and implementation of policies and programs that affect them";

**WHEREAS**, Article 149 of Executive Order No. 209 (Family Code of the Philippines) affirms that "The family, being the foundation of the nation, is a basic social institution which public policy cherishes and protects. Consequently, family relations are governed by law and no custom, practice or agreement destructive of the family shall be recognized or given effect";

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 11908 (Parent Effectiveness Service Program Act) aims to give an overview of family dynamics in the Philippine context and mandates under Section 5(b) that "facilitators help participants understand the importance, functions, and characteristics of the family, and inform participants of the family's strengths and weaknesses to enable them to reflect on building upon their strengths to address their weaknesses so that they can be responsible members of the community";

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 11861 (Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act) recognizes the socio-economic burdens borne by over 15 million solo parents—95 percent of whom are women—and guarantees comprehensive social protection;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act) and Republic Act No. 11930 (Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children Act) establish state policies to protect children from all forms of physical, sexual, emotional, and digital violence;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004) penalizes violence that impairs the security and well-being of women and their children;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 9994 (Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010) safeguards the welfare of the elderly within the extended Filipino family system;

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 11310 (Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program Act) states that "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order thereby uplifting its citizens and marginalized sectors from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all";

**WHEREAS**, Presidential Decree No. 603 (Child and Youth Welfare Code) outlines the shared responsibilities of the home, school, church, and

community, commanding in Articles 14, 15, and 103 that moral, civic, and spiritual values be instilled to protect children from harmful environments;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 10165 (Foster Care Act of 2012) guarantees that alternative child care prioritizes the best interests of the child and, where possible, supports reintegration into biological families;

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 11210 (Expanded Maternity Leave Law) declares that "It is the declared policy of the State under Article XIII, Section 14 of the 1987 Constitution to protect and promote the rights and welfare of working women, taking into account their maternal functions, and to provide an enabling environment in which their full potential can be achieved, and in recognition of women's maternal function as a social responsibility";

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 11148 (Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act) and Republic Act No. 9710 (Magna Carta of Women) safeguard maternal nutrition, physical health, and gender equity within household structures;

**WHEREAS**, Proclamation No. 60 (Series of 1992) "Declaring the Last Week of September of Every Year as Family Week", Executive Order No. 241 (Series of 1995) "Creating a Steering Committee for the Proper Observance of the Family Week", Executive Order No. 238 (Series of 2003) "Amending Executive Order No. 241 by Expanding the Powers and Functions and Membership of the National Steering Committee of the Family Week", and Presidential Proclamation No. 326 (Series of 2012) "Declaring the Fourth Monday of September of Every Year as "Kainang Pamilya Mahalaga" Day and Amending Proclamation No. 1895 (S. 2009)" — collectively establish state traditions of celebrating family solidarity and institutionalizing family protection initiatives;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES,** to urge the Philippine Government to declare September of every year as "National Family Month" in line with the foregoing Constitutional and legislative mandates, declarations, and policies, as well as executive issuances, and to enjoin all sectors of society to undertake and sustain policies, programs, and initiatives that protect, strengthen, and promote the solidarity and total development of the Filipino family.

*Adopted,*

**WIN T. GATCHALIAN**