



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 3672

Introduced by Reps. Alfelito “Alfel” M. Bascug, Ysabel Maria J. Zamora and Laarni Lavin Roque

**“AN ACT
DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR AS THE “NATIONAL
PERSONS WITH DWARFISM AWARENESS MONTH” AND OCTOBER 25 AS THE
“NATIONAL PERSONS WITH DWARFISM AWARENESS DAY”**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

International Dwarfism Awareness Month, observed every October, is a global initiative to raise awareness about the experiences, contributions, and rights of persons with dwarfism. It serves as a vital platform to highlight that the issue is not merely about height but about confronting and dismantling social, physical, and attitudinal barriers that persons with dwarfism face every day. These barriers often include exclusion, stereotyping, discrimination, and lack of accessibility to fundamental rights and opportunities.

In recognition of this, the proposed measure seeks to declare October of every year as the "National Persons with Dwarfism Awareness Month" and October 25 as "National Persons with Dwarfism Awareness Day" in the Philippines. This legislation aligns with global calls to promote the full inclusion, participation, and empowerment of all persons, particularly those who have historically faced marginalization and systemic discrimination.

Consistent with Section 11, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, which states that “the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights,” this bill underscores the policy of the State to ensure that persons with dwarfism are able to enjoy their rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with others.

It further affirms the principles laid down by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), particularly Article 8, which emphasizes

raising awareness to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, and Article 27, which protects their right to work in an environment that is open, inclusive, and accessible. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also champion the principle of “Leaving No One Behind,” which recognizes the urgent need to create opportunities for groups most at risk of exclusion.

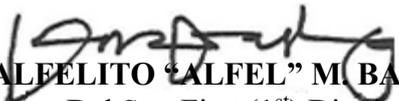
Despite existing laws in the Philippines that protect the rights of persons with disabilities, specific challenges persist for persons with dwarfism, including limited public understanding of their condition, lack of appropriate medical expertise, inadequate anti-bullying measures in educational settings, and insufficient workplace accommodations. These factors significantly hinder their access to services, employment, education, and full participation in society.

This bill is part of a broader effort to correct these systemic gaps through sustained public education and inclusive policy. Declaring a month and a day of national awareness will amplify visibility, promote understanding, and encourage a collective commitment among all sectors—government, civil society, the private sector, and the general public—to advance the dignity and rights of persons with dwarfism.

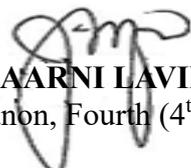
The United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, adopted in 2019, serves as a critical reference point. It commits to embedding the rights of persons with disabilities, including those with dwarfism, into both external programming and internal workplace environments. The United Nations in the Philippines, through its partnership with the Philippine National Disability Forum and civil society, actively supports these inclusion efforts and encourages the active participation of all communities in national development.

Through this measure, the Philippines takes another step forward toward an inclusive, rights-based society where equality, non-discrimination, and diversity are not just aspirations but lived realities. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that persons with dwarfism are respected, included, and empowered—not only during one month or one day, but throughout the year and in all aspects of life.

Approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


REP. ALEELITO “ALFEL” M. BASCUG
Agusan Del Sur, First (1st) District


REP. ISABEL MARIA J. ZAMORA
San Juan City, Lone District


REP. LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE
Bukidnon, Fourth (4th) District

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3672

Introduced by Reps. Alfelito “Alfel” M. Bascug, Ysabel Maria J. Zamora and Laarni Lavin Roque

**“AN ACT
DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR AS THE “NATIONAL
PERSONS WITH DWARFISM AWARENESS MONTH” AND OCTOBER 25 AS THE
“NATIONAL PERSONS WITH DWARFISM AWARENESS DAY”**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights. It is the policy of the State to take appropriate measures to ensure that persons with dwarfism are able to fully enjoy their rights and fundamental freedom on equal basis with others, including protection from discrimination, stigma, harassment and violence.

The State further recognizes the importance of promoting positive awareness, understanding, and acceptance of persons with dwarfism to eliminate social, physical, and attitudinal barriers and to foster their full inclusion, participation, and empowerment in all aspects of public life.

SEC. 2. The month of October of every year is hereby declared as the “National Persons with Dwarfism Awareness Month” to promote public education and understanding on the conditions, rights, and contributions of persons with dwarfism in Philippine society.

SEC. 3. The 25th day of October of every year is hereby declared as the “National Persons with Dwarfism Awareness Day” to commemorate the contributions of persons with dwarfism, highlight the importance of inclusion and accessibility, and reaffirm the collective commitment of individuals, institutions, and the State to uphold their dignity, rights, and well-being.

SEC. 4. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Human Rights, in coordination with the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, the Department of Health, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the National Council on Disability Affairs, and the Presidential Communications Office, in

consultation with recognized organizations and other advocacy groups representing persons with dwarfism, shall formulate and issue the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish, impair, or repeal rights and benefits granted to any marginalized, vulnerable, or disadvantaged sector under existing laws, international conventions, or administrative issuances.

SEC. 7. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,