



**Republic of the Philippines**  
**Department of Social Welfare and Development**

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**SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS**

Chairperson

Committee on Health and Demography

Senate of the Philippines

Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Dear **Senator Hontiveros**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development **supports Senate Bill Nos. 172 and 1022** entitled: **“Abot Alam Act of 2016”**, introduced by Senators Bam Aquino and Grace Poe, respectively and **Senate Bill No. 205** entitled: **“The Alternative Learning System (ALS) Act”**, introduced by Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, which seek to facilitate access of the out-of-school youth and adults to quality education.

To contribute to the bills' enhancement, we are recommending the following:

1. To consolidate the bills into one.
2. To adapt the **Declaration of Policy** under SB No. 172 in the consolidation of the bills, as it provides a more direct yet holistic approach on the State's role to provide accessible education for those who are in need of it. However, instead of the word 'disabled' under item (c) of the said declaration, we recommend the use of the term 'persons with disability'.
3. On **Coverage** (Sec. 4 of SBN 172 & Sec. 6 of SBN 1022)

To include indigenous peoples (IPs), cultural minorities, and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

4. On **Objectives** (Sec. 6 of SBN 172 & Sec. 5 of SBN 1022)

To revise letter (d) which will be read as follows:

***“Integrate adults who have neither undergone nor completed formal education, and who want to finish school or be trained in entrepreneurship and/or employment in the non-formal and information education system.”***


5. On **Sec. 6** - Implementation of the Program (SBN 205), **Sec. 9** - Program Mapping (SBN 172) & Utilization of Alternative Delivery Modes (SBN 1022), **Sec. 10** - Program Matching (SBN 172) & Program Implementation (SBN 1022), and **Sec. 11** – Program Implementation (SBN 172)

To **consolidate into one Section** which will be labeled as **“Program Implementation”**, since provisions mentioned in Sections 9, 10 & 11 of SBN 172 and Sections 9 & 10 of SBN 1022 are activities that can be attributed as part of the implementation of the Abot Alam Program.

6. To adapt Sec. 12 of SB No. 172 on **Implementing Rules and Regulations** in the consolidation of the bills.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
JUDY M. TAGUIWALO  
Secretary