

HONORABLE FAUSTINO MICHAEL CARLOS T. DY, III
Chairperson
Youth and Sports Development
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear **Representative DY**,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports **House Bills Numbered 79, 2062, 2524, 3211, and 5559** that seek to the **prevent adolescent pregnancy**, authored by Representatives Edcel C. Lagman, Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nograles, Charisse Anne C. Hernandez, Stephen James T. Tan, and Patrick Michael D. Vargas. Also, the **House Resolution No. 288** entitled, **“Resolution Directing the House Committee on Basic Education and Culture to Conduct an Inquiry, In Aid of Legislation, on the Rising Number of Adolescent Pregnancy and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Among the Youth, for the Purpose of Strengthening the Existing Comprehensive Sexuality Education of the Department of Education and Integrating Effective Preventive Measures in the Basic Education System”**, introduced by former Representative Rex. Gatchalian.

For the enhancement of the Bills, we recommend the following:

1. To consolidate all the bills into one.
2. **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms**
 - 2.1 To clarify and reconcile the differing ages used to describe adolescent individuals, i.e., ages 10 – 19 years old based on: Republic Act 10354 or Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health, or ages 10 – 24 years old as defined by the Department of Health and the Philippine Pediatric Society.
 - 2.2 On item (c) Adolescent Reproductive Health Curriculum (ARHC), to mention the package of teaching and imparting information on psychosocial aspects.
3. **Sec. 4. Development and Implementation of the National Program of Action and Investment Plan for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy**

To revisit the applicability and relevance of Executive Order No. 141, series of 2021 using and maximizing the Social Development Committee (SDC) as the mechanism for coming up with the National Action Plan.

4. **Sec. 5. Organization and Mobilization of Regional and Local Information and Service Delivery Network for Adolescent Health and Development (ISDN for AHD)**

To consider the discussion paper by PIDS entitled “An Assessment of National-Level Governance of the Philippines’ Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law: Trends and Ways Forward in 2021” in enhancing the provision of this Section regarding strengthening the referral system among members.

5. **Sec. 6. Mandatory Establishment of Functional Local “Teen Centers” for Adolescent Health and Development under HBN 79, Section 10 under HBN 2062, and Section 11 under HBN 5559**

5.1 To include the Department of Social Welfare and Development among the national government agencies to formulate the guidelines and standards in setting up the Teen Centers;

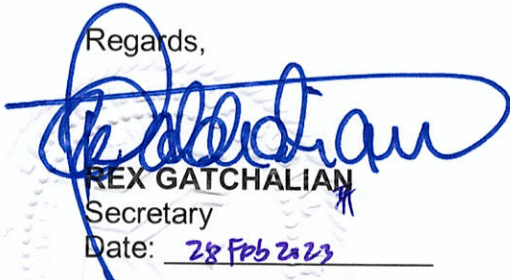
5.2 To revisit the DOH’s exiting 704 Adolescent Friendly Health Facilities (AFHFs) to see how the existing guidelines could be enhanced and harmonized with the provision of this Section; and

5.3 To consider letting the LSWDO manage the Centers in lieu of the *Sangguniang Kabataan* (SK) since the latter may not provide continuity given that the SK is an elective position.

This is being submitted for the Chairperson’s consideration.

Thank you.

Regards,



REX GATCHALIAN
Secretary
Date: 28 Feb 2023