



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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HONORABLE PAOLO BENIGNO "BAM" AQUINO IV

Chairperson

Committee on Youth

Senate of the Philippines

Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Dear **Senator Aquino**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports **Senate Bill No. 2060** or the "**Street Children Crisis Center Act**," introduced by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito, as this will contribute to the Department's efforts to protect the rights and welfare of one of its most marginalized and vulnerable sub-sector, through a comprehensive program for street children.

To contribute to the bill's enhancement, we are proposing the following for consideration of the Committee:

1. To include a provision as to the intended function of the crisis center, whether it would be a **day center** or **drop in center** where children stay less than 24 hours.
2. On **Sec. 4 (Program Framework)**, it should consider the establishment, maintenance and operation of day center or drop in center for street children.
3. On **Sec. 5 (Implementing Agency)**, instead of the DSWD, the **local government units (LGUs)** should be primary responsible in the implementation of programs and services for street children since the operation of Lingap Centers has already been devolved to the local government units (LGUs) in accordance with the Local Government Code. Thus, the DSWD would only provide the needed technical assistance in the implementation of the programs and services for street children.
4. On **Sec. 6 (Functions of the Department of Social Welfare and Development)**, letters (a) to (d), instead of the DSWD, it should be the responsibility of the local social welfare and development offices (LSWDOs).

Further, letter (e) should be in a separate Section entitled, "**Implementing Rules and Regulations**" which should be led by the DSWD in consultation with the DILG, DBM, and LGUs.