

HONORABLE ROSANNA “RIA” V. VERGARA

Chairperson
Committee on Social Services
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear **Representative VERGARA**,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) **supports House Bill No. 5294** entitled, “**An Act Requiring the Department of Social Welfare and Development to Give Free Hearing Aid to Deaf or Hearing-Impaired Indigent Individuals and Appropriating Funds Thereof**” or “**The Free Hearing Aid Act of 2022**”, authored by Representative Peter B. Miguel, that aims to help hearing-impaired individuals continue being productive and contributing members of society.

To further enhance the Bill, we recommend the following:

1. Sec. 2. Mandate of Department of Social Welfare and Development

1.1 To study further the mandate of the DSWD and the charter of the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) to preclude overlaps and duplication; or

1.2 The purpose of the Bill will be better served if lodged with the Department of Health (DOH).

2. Sec. 3. Deaf or Hearing Impaired Indigent Individual, to consider including those who belong to the middle class or whose incomes are only in the minimum level.

3. Sec. 4. Rules and Regulation

3.1. To include the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), League of Cities and Municipalities, NCDA, DOH, and Department of Science and Technology (DOST); and

3.2. To include role delineation between the participating Agencies.

4. Additional Comments and Recommendations

4.1. To ensure funding for the first year’s implementation of the program.

4.2. To partner with the NCDA in carrying out the provision of this proposed bill for proper intervention, such as but not limited to hearing aid:

- Qualified interpreters or other effective methods of delivering materials to individuals with hearing impairments;
- Acquisition or modification of equipment or devices; and
- Other similar services and actions or all types of aids and services that facilitate the learning process of people with hearing disabilities.

This is being submitted for the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


REX GATCHALIAN
Secretary 17 FEB 2023
Date: _____