

**HONORABLE IMEE R. MARCOS**

Chairperson

Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Senate of the Philippines

Pasay City

**ATTN: Ms. Elizabeth Fabian Agas**  
Committee SecretaryDear **SENATOR MARCOS**,

This refers to your request for comments and recommendations on the unnumbered Senate Bill to substitute the following bills:

Senate Bill (SB) No.	Title	Author
343 525 1086 1205 1730	Magna Carta for Child Development Workers and Providing Funds Therefor	Sen. Nancy Binay Sen. Jinggoy Estrada Sen. Cynthia Villar Sen Ramon Revilla Jr. Sen. Mark Villar Sen. Imee R. Marcos

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) submitted its official position paper on the abovementioned bills and hereby reiterates its continuous support for the passage of this measure as this recognizes the invaluable and critical role of the Child Development Workers (CDWs) in advancing the welfare of children and assisting in their growth and development.

Consistent with its mandate to develop, implement and coordinate social welfare programs and services to the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged including children, and pursuant to Republic Act No. 10410 or the "Early Years Act of 2013", the DSWD issued Administrative Order No. 29 series of 2004<sup>1</sup> as a guide in regulating the quality of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) programs through various centers operated by local government units, non-governmental organizations, people's organizations, national government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations, and other private individuals.

To this end, the DSWD submits the following comments and recommendations on the substitute bill for the Committee's consideration:

**1. On Qualifications, Training Requirement, and Security of Tenure**

<sup>1</sup> Available at [https://www.dswd.gov.ph/issuances/AOs/AO\\_2004-029.pdf](https://www.dswd.gov.ph/issuances/AOs/AO_2004-029.pdf)

The DSWD suggests adding among its qualification a civil service eligibility requirement for CDWs as this would entitle them to benefits such as competitive salaries, career growth and advancement opportunities, and insurance among others.

Likewise, the DSWD recommends that the CDW Training Course for incumbent CDWs not meeting the ECCD Training requirements as well as the training course for CDWs who have no college education be conducted by the ECCD Council instead of being administered by the DSWD. The CDW Training Course would allow current CDWs lacking ECCD Training to remain in employ and would assure their security of tenure without compromising the improvement and professionalism of the ECCD sector and would still be on track in upgrading quality standards of public and private ECCD programs. Likewise, the necessary training course for current CDWs who are not college graduates would provide an opportunity for them to continue in the service provided that they comply with the training course within two years from the effectivity of the Act. More so, the administration of CDW Training Course by the ECCD Council would be more consistent with the other provisions of the substitute bill particularly Section 18 thereof and pursuant to Section 5.2(c) of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 10410.

## **2. On Appropriations needed for CDW Trainings**

The DSWD suggests charging the training needs of CDWs on the annual appropriations of the ECCD Council instead of charging it to the DSWD in order to harmonize it with Section 18 of the substitute bill.

## **3. On crafting of IRR**

The DSWD recommends including the Council for the Welfare of Children in crafting and promulgating the necessary rules and regulations in order to align the goals of the proposed legislation in the best interest of children.

## **4. The Committee may also wish to consider adding the celebration of Child Development Workers' Week every June 7 to June 11 of every year.**

This is in line with Proclamation No. 404 series of 2003 and as recognition and celebration of the frontline functions of CDWs in helping mold young children during their early years of education. The DSWD believes that this would empower the CDWs and would encourage more in joining the ranks.

This is being submitted for the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
**REX GATCHALIAN**  
 Secretary

Date: JUN 09 2023