

HONORABLE CIRIACO B. GATO, JR.
Chairperson
Committee on Health
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Attn: Erwin Vicman R. Lara
Committee Secretary

Dear Representative Gato,

This refers to your request for comments and recommendations on the following House measures:

| House Bill | Title | Author |
|--|---|---|
| House Bills Numbered 284, 4153, and 7247 | Providing for the Stockpiling of Critical Drugs and Medicines, Creating for the Purpose the Health Procurement and Stockpiling Bureau | Representatives Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D. L. Tan, Harris Christopher M. Ongchuan, and Alfred Delos Santos. |
| House Bills Numbered 871, 5329, 6501, 7586, 7700, and 7869 | Strengthening the National Nutrition Council | Representatives Michael M. Romero, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Wilbert T. Lee, Lani Mercado-Revilla, Bryan B. Revilla, Ramon Jolo Revilla, III, and Ma. Lucille L. Nava |

With the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) mandate to lead in formulating, implementing, and coordinating social welfare and development policies and programs for and with the poor, vulnerable, and disadvantaged, DSWD supports all efforts in alleviating and mitigating the conditions of our countrymen. To this end, the DSWD poses no objections to the proposed measures of "Providing for the Stockpiling of Critical Drugs and Medicines, Creating for the Purpose the Health Procurement and Stockpiling Bureau".

To further enhance the proposed **House Bill No. 284**, the DSWD submits the following comments and recommendations:

1. SEC. 6. Functions and Responsibilities

Humanitarian supply-chain management plays an integral role in disaster relief operations in that it "... brings a technical perspective (planning, information gathering, warehousing, pre-positioning, transportation, distribution) as well as a strategic one (decision making, co-ordination, inter-organisational co-operation, public-private partnerships).¹

It is suggested that capacity-building activities for humanitarian supply-chain management be included in the provision on letter (d) and be rephrased as **"Provide Technical assistance to DOH field offices on procurement matters and capacity-building activities for humanitarian supply chain management."**

Similarly, since supply-chain management covers logistics and delivery of goods, it is suggested that a provision on logistics management be included in letter (j).

It is likewise suggested that equipment management be included in the provision on letter (r) and be rephrased as: **"Ensure adequate provision of the appropriate storage, equipment management, and containment facilities in strategic areas of the country that properly comply with the requirements for room temperature and humidity, refrigeration and non-exposure to heat, sunlight, rain and moisture.**

In addition, strategic areas should be identified as (1) Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged areas (GIDA); (2) Island Provinces, Municipalities, and Barangays; (3) Disaster-prone Areas; and (4) Fourth and Sixth Class provinces, cities, and municipalities.

2. SEC. 7. Sources.

It is suggested that the recycling of materials follow a set of standards drawn by the Health Procurement and Stockpiling Bureau and that medical engineers should determine if these materials are still safe to use. Consequently, the provision in letter (d) be rephrased as: **"Contracting with domestic facilities to recycle strategic and critical devices and materials subject to the assessment and review of medical engineering professionals following the standards set by the bureau for critical**

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<https://plan-international.org/eu/blog/2022/12/13/supply-chain/#:~:text=Definition%20of%20humanitarian%20supply%20chain,and%20to%20respond%20to%20emergencies.>

devices and materials, thereby increasing domestic supplies when such devices and materials would otherwise be insufficient to meet public health needs.”

3. General comment

It is suggested that permanent positions for medical professionals, medical engineers, and needed workforce tasked with the maintenance of storage and containment of facilities be included in the proposed bill.


Regarding House Bills Numbered 871, 5329, 6501, 7586, 7700, and 7869, on strengthening the National Nutrition Council (NNC), DSWD humbly believes that the NNC can best serve its mandate as a policy-making body if it remains under the Department of Health (DOH). It is encouraged to strengthen its ties with DOH for the alignment of its desired policies and programs.

As to the other provisions of the subject bills, DSWD defers to the comments of other agencies relevant to their respective mandates and concerns.

For the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


REX GATCHALIAN
Secretary
Date: JUN 21 2023