

HONORABLE MICHAEL L. ROMERO, PH.D

Chairperson
 Committee on Poverty Alleviation
 House of Representatives
 Quezon City

Dear **Representative Romero**,

This refers to your request for comments and recommendations on the following proposed bills:

House Bill (HB) No.	Title	Author
5184	Burial Assistance for Indigents Act	<i>Rep. Ernesto "Ernix" M. Dionisio, Jr.</i> Manila, 1st District
5562	Free and Discounted Funeral Services Act	<i>Rep. Sam "SV" Versoza</i> Party List - TUTOK TO WIN
5753		<i>Rep. France L. Castro</i> Party List - ACT TEACHERS
		<i>Rep. Arlene D. Brosas</i> Party List - GABRIELA
		<i>Rep. Raoul Dannel A. Manuel</i> Party List - Kabataan
6602		<i>Rep. PM Vargas</i> Quezon City, 5th District
7184	Free Funeral Services Act	<i>Rep. Lordan G. Suan</i> Cagayan de Oro City, 1st District

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is at the forefront of social protection, delivering aid programs to support families suffering from unexpected life crises. One such program is the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS), which includes the provision of Funeral Assistance to help cover the costs associated with funerals.

The Funeral Assistance provided by the DSWD is comprehensive, covering not only the funeral's basic expenses but also additional costs. These can include expenses related to transporting the deceased to their residence or hometown, interment, and the creation or burial site, taking into account the customary practices of the family,

particularly among Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous People (IPs) and Moros.

Through the AICS program, the DSWD can provide crucial support to families during grief and difficulty, easing their financial burden and enabling them to focus on mourning and healing. In this regard, any additional funding given to the DSWD can help expand more the implementation of this assistance.

Given the foregoing, the DSWD respectfully recommends that the proposed legislative measures on Funeral/Burial Assistance be consolidated with the proposed bills on "Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS)" since the Funeral/Burial Assistance is already incorporated in the provision of assistance to the clients of AICS.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



REX GATCHALIAN
Secretary

Date: MAY 15 2023