



HONORABLE PETER CAYETANO
Chairperson
Committee on Science and Technology
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

Attn: **JAMIE LYN DUQUE-DAILEG**
Committee Secretary

Dear **SENATOR CAYETANO**,

This refers to your communication dated 18 May 2023 requesting the submission of a position paper on the following bills:

Senate Bill (SB) No.	Title	Author
Senate Bill Nos. 67, 194, 298, 318, 334, 455, 625, 685, 974, 982, 1051, 1126, 1172, 1542, 1574, 1867, 1978, and House Bill No. 7327	E-Governance/ E-Government Act	Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, Sen. Christopher Lawrence Go, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, Sen. Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri, Sen. Grace Poe, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, Sen. Sonny Angara, Sen. Win Gatchalian, by Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr., Sen. Win Gatchalian, Sen. Mark Villar, Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito, Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr., Sen. Joel Villanueva, Sen. Loren B. Legarda, Sen. Sonny Angara, Reps. Romualdez, F., Romualdez, Y., Marcos F., Acidre, J., Tiangco, T., et. al.
Senate Bill Nos. 225, 537, 863, 1365, 1382, 1701, 1923, 2066	Cybersecurity	Sen. Mark A. Villar, Sen. Grace Poe, Sen. Imee Marcos, Sen. Juan Miguel "Migz" F. Zubiri, Sen. Raffy T. Tulfo, Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr., Sen. Win Gatchalian

Senate Bill Nos. 183, 814, 815, 864, 1213, 1380, 1383, 1611, 1845, 1876, 2146, and House Bill No. 6	Affordable and Accessible Internet For All	Sen. Imee R. Marcos, Sen. Win Gatchalian, Sen. Grace Poe, Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr., Sen. Juan Miguel "Migz" F. Zubiri., Sen. Joel Villanueva, Sen. Raffy T. Tulfo, Sen. Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid, Sen. Jinggoy E. Estrada, Romualdez, F., Romualdez, Y., Acidre, J., Yap, C., Romualdo, J., et. al.
Senate Bill Nos. 830, 986, and 1065	Digital Literacy	Sen. Loren B. Legarda, Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr., Sen. Grace Poe

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) fully supports the above-mentioned measures because, as the lead agency in social protection, it is committed to ensuring the timely, effective, and quality delivery of programs and services to its beneficiaries, stakeholders, and partners through digital advancement.

The DSWD has already started with its initiatives on digital transformation, mainly the Ease of Doing Social Welfare, wherein the Department will employ beneficiary-focused and user-centered solutions in building digital platforms for its programs and services. DSWD will also utilize a Philsys ID-enabled benefits management and government-to-person (G2P) system. This system will significantly benefit those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA). In addition, the authentication of beneficiaries using the Philsys ID will help prevent fraud and ensure that aid is given to those who genuinely need it.

Moreover, to protect the data and information of clients and beneficiaries, the Department targets establishing cyber security operation centers (CSOC) and data protection offices (DPO) in various strategic locations in the country. This move aims to increase the protection of beneficiaries, safeguard sensitive data, and ensure the smooth functioning of the digital system of the most vulnerable sectors of Philippine society, as their economic condition makes them more susceptible to common cyber-attacks that exploit their privacy and compromise their financial accounts.

While we have presented the digital transformation initiatives of the Department, we take this opportunity to recommend that, under **Section 7 of SB 334 and SB 455**, it may be considered to specify who will hire the Chief Information Officer and to clarify if

this could be a designation. If this will entail the creation of the position, a corresponding budget allocation is necessary.

Further, we submit to the comments/ inputs of the Department of Information and Communications Technology and the National Privacy Commission, the competent authorities on digitalization and data protection.

For the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



REX GATCHALIAN
Secretary
Date: MAY 31 2023