

**HONORABLE ROMAN T. ROMULO**  
 Chairperson  
 Committee on Basic Education and Culture  
 House of Representatives  
 Quezon City

Attn: **MR. NEMESIO O. MALATAMBAN III**  
 Committee Secretary

Dear **Congressman Romulo**,

This refers to your request for comments and recommendations on the following unnumbered substitute bill:

House Bill (HB) No.	Title	Author
Unnumbered House Bill in substitution of HB Nos. 2243, 1137, and 4468	An Act Extending the National Feeding Program to Undernourished Children in Secondary Schools and Appropriating Funds Therefor, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 11037, Entitled "An Act Institutionalizing A National Feeding Program for Undernourished Children in Public Day Care, Kindergarten, and Elementary Schools to Combat Hunger and Undernutrition Among Filipino Children and Appropriating Funds Therefor	Rep. Stella Luz A. Quimbo  Rep. Faustino A. Dy V  Rep. Dioniso

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) fully supports the proposed legislations that advance the promotion of nutrition among children while using indigenous or locally-produced food.

Please note that aside from the Supplementary Feeding Program, which improves and sustains the nutritional status of children beneficiaries, the DSWD also aims to improve the knowledge, attitude, and practices of children, parents, and caregivers through intensified nutrition and health education through the Parent Effectiveness Service and the Family Development Sessions of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.

To enhance the proposed bills, we take this opportunity to provide our comments and recommendations for consideration:

### 1. On Section 1:

- It is recommended to state Child Development Centers (CDCs) instead of Day Care Center to be consistent with Section 4 of RA 10410 or the Early Years Act of 2013
- It is suggested to state that all children enrolled in CDCs and Supervised Neighborhood Plays (SNPs) will be covered in the feeding program, instead of only undernourished children, to be consistent with the Social Protection principle of inclusivity. Also, the ages 2-5 are formative years, hence, nutritional support for all children is vital for their optimum growth and development.
- It is recommended that “milk feeding program” be included and defined, as follows:

*(c) Milk Feeding Program. - The National Government Agencies (NGAs) shall coordinate with the Department of Agriculture (DA), the National Dairy Authority (NDA), the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), and the Cooperative Development Authority for the incorporation of fresh milk and fresh milk-based food products in the fortified meals and cycle menu in accordance with Republic Act No. 8172, otherwise known as the "Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000", utilizing, as far as practicable, locally produced milk in order to enhance its nutritional content and, at the same time, help boost livelihood opportunities for local dairy farmers and local dairy industry;*

*Provided, further, that the aforementioned fresh milk shall cost an average of twenty-five pesos (Php 25.00) per 180 ml-200 ml of fresh milk to ensure that **children enrolled in CDCs and SNPs** receive the appropriate amount of nutrition, which may be adjusted by the implementing agency every year to account for inflation, logistics and/or for nutritional adjustments as recommended by FNRI, NDA, and PCC.*

The inclusion of fresh milk and fresh-milk based food products in the hot meals provided to children in CDC and SNP groups is mandated by Republic Act No. 11037, or the “Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act” of 2018.

### 2. On Section 2

- It is suggested to state the provision as: “xxx (a) With the highest prevalence of undernutrition and nutrient deficiency among children aged (2) years up to grade twelve (12) level.”

### 3. On Section 5

- It is suggested to consider the Community-Based Monitoring System as an additional data source.

To reiterate, the DSWD supports the proposed measures and the DSWD welcomes the opportunity to work with the Department of Education and other government agencies to draft the Implementing Rules and Regulations as soon as the bill is enacted.

For the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



**REX GATCHALIAN**  
Secretary  
Date: 22 JUN 2023