

10 January 2019

**SECRETARY ADELINO B. SITOY**

Head

Presidential Legislative Liaison Office

Office of the President

Manila City

Dear **Secretary Sitoy**,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development strongly supports Senate Bill No. 2118 or the “Magna Carta of Child Development Workers” that seeks to improve the welfare of child development workers by providing them with additional benefits and incentives.

We wish to inform the Chairperson that the proposed bill is one of the Department’s priority legislative measures for the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.

To contribute to the bill’s enhancement, we hereby recommend the following:

1. Under **Sec. 6 – Recruitment and Selection**: The inclusion of person with disability and members of the indigenous communities in the recruitment of CDWs.
2. Under **Sec. 7 – Qualifications, Positions and Salary Grade, item (a), number 3**: Replace the word “certified” to **ACCREDITED** in consonance with the regulatory function of the Department.
3. Under **Sec. 8 – Normal Working Hours**:
  - a. Include the provision of complete emergency response / survival kit if they will be required to render services beyond the required working hours especially during emergency situation.
  - b. Working hours to children during emergency situations should be conducted in child friendly spaces.
4. Under **Sec. 9 – Code of Conduct of Child Development Workers**: Revise to read as:

*Code of Conduct of Child Development Workers – Within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, the Early Childhood Care and Development Council (ECCDC), in consultation with a national organization of child development workers, shall formulate a Code of Conduct for Child Development Workers **IN LINE WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC) RULES AND REGULATIONS AND ADHERING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD.** Each child development worker...*


5. Under **Sec. 11 – Right to Self-Organization:** To include another sentence in this section to read as:

***THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT SHALL ENCOURAGE THIS ORGANIZATION AND SHALL PROVIDE BUDGET FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION.***

6. Under **Sec. 11 – Other Benefits and Privileges:** Consider including additional leave benefits for solo parents.
7. Under **Sec. 15 – Appropriations:** Include in this section the continuous development of standards training module for the CDWs which will be provided by the LSWDO.
8. General Comment: For consistency, replace “Day Care Worker” to Child Development Worker” as provided in Republic Act No. 10410 or the Early Years Act of 2013.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
**ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA**  
Secretary  
Date: January 11, 2019

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By: SG

Date: 8.7.18

Control No. 18157-18