



21 March 2019

REPRESENTATIVE RAMON "RED" H. DURANO VI

Chairperson
Committee on Basic Education and Culture
RVM Building, House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear Chairperson Durano:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development **supports House Bill No. 5097: National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001** (Rep. Tupas); **House Bill No. 5113: An Act Amending Republic Act No. 7077 Mandating the Institutionalization, Development, Training, Organization and Administration of Basic Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) in Grades 11 and 12 in Public and Private Educational Institutions, and for Other Purposes** (Rep. Abu); and **House Bill No. 8651: Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Act of 2018** (Rep. Violago).

To contribute to the bills' enhancement, we are recommending the following:

1. To consolidate the three (3) bills into one.
2. To merge **Section 4 (a) of HBN 5113** and **Section 6 (a) of HBN 8651** to broaden the coverage which will be read as follows:

*"Those who are physically or psychologically unfit, as certified by **any authorized medical personnel or by the AFP Surgeon General or his authorized medical officer** in pursuance of the recommendation of the educational institutions where the concerned students are enrolled."*

3. To include the "**Civic Welfare Community Service (CWTS)**" stipulated under Republic Act No. 9163 or the "**National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001**", where students are trained to respond to specific problems and concerns of marginalized communities (i.e. on health, education, environment, etc.)
4. **Sec. 38 – Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)**

To include the role of the Reserve Officers which will be read as follows:

"The Reserve Officer shall augment during disaster preparedness and response, such as but not limited to, repacking of relief, act as responders, among others."

5. **Sec. 39 – Establishment of ROTC Units in Schools of HBN 5097**
 - 5.1 To include a provision for the procedures concerning the "**request for the conduct of military training**"; and
 - 5.2 To present extensively the distinctions between the "**mandatory**" and "**voluntary**" trainings.
6. **Sec. 6 – Organization, Operation and Maintenance of ROTC of HBN 5113**

To specifically include the organizational structure, Officials and administrative support, and the deliverables of the ROTC Unit for purposes of clarity as well as efficient and effective implementation.

7. **Sec. 3 – Coverage of HBN 8651**

- 7.1 To present extensively the distinctions between the “**military**” and “**civic**” trainings for all senior high school students in public and private educational institutions; and
- 7.2 To **delete the prescribed track for male and female senior high school students** in order to promote gender equality and women empowerment, among others.

8. **Other Comments**

- 8.1 To consider the coverage of the bill is **age of majority** which is 18 years old and above. Thus, to **include this provision as the omnibus amendments** in the consolidation of the bills which will be read as follows:

“Those considered minors would still need consent from their parents since they could not still provide discernment over the matter.”

- 8.2 To **emphasize that ROTC Program in all public and private institutions is in line with the school’s child protection policy** which are based on the best interest of the child, do no harm and non-discrimination principles. This is to ensure that children who will undergo training will not be subjected to abuse and exploitation

- 8.3 To **incorporate the prohibition of Section 22 (Children as Zones of Peace)** of Republic Act No. 7610 or the “**Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act**” which states:

“Children are hereby declared as Zones of Peace. It shall be the responsibility of the State and all other sectors concerned to resolve armed conflicts in order to promote the goal of children as zones of peace.”

- 8.4 To **include specific safeguards to prevent abuses and corrupt practices** in the administration.

- 8.5 To explicitly **include the prohibitions of Republic Act No. 11053 or the “Anti-Hazing Act of 2018”** in terms of the regulation of initiation rites in school-based fraternities and sororities or similar organizations.

For the Committee's consideration.

Very truly yours,


ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA

Secretary

Date: _____