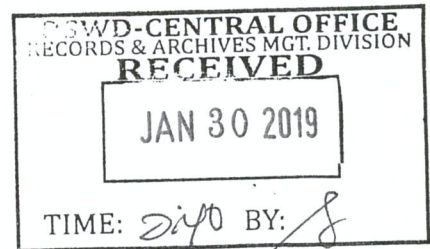14 January 2019

REPRESENTATIVE DIVINA GRACE C. YU
Chairperson
Committee on the Welfare of Children
RVM Building, House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear **Chairperson Yu**:

The **Department of Social Welfare and Development supports House Bill No. 8738** entitled: An Act Prohibiting Discrimination Against Children on Account of Illegitimacy or Birth Out of Wedlock and Providing Penalties Therefor or the **"Anti-Discrimination of Illegitimacy Act"**, introduced by Representative Carlo V. Lopez.

We believe that this proposed measure will further strengthen the implementation of laws promoting and protecting the rights of children against abuse, exploitation, and discrimination.

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

1. **Explanatory Note**

   To provide further facts such as **number of cases where discrimination of children out of wedlock are recorded** to establish that it is of a national concern that may merit the need to pass this proposed bill into a law.

2. **Sec. 3 – Unlawful Discrimination**

   On **letter (d),** to **include other acts that are prohibited in existing laws and policies.** This is to ensure protection and the best interest of the child shall be the paramount consideration:

   a. **Other acts considered as "child abuse"** under Section 3 (Definition of Terms), letter (b), items (1) & (2) of **Republic Act No. 7610** or the *"Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act"*:

      ➢ Psychological and physical abuse, neglect, cruelty, sexual abuse, and emotional maltreatment; and

      ➢ Any act by deeds or words which debases, degrades or demeans the intrinsic worth and dignity of a child as a human being

   b. **RA 10173** or the *"Data Privacy Act of 2012"*; and

   c. Policy and Guidelines on Protecting Children in School from Abuse, Violence, Exploitation, Discrimination, Bullying and Other Forms of Abuse or the **"DepEd Child Protection Policy"**

3. **Sec. 5 – Programs to Promote Non-Discrimination**

    3.1 On letter (a) Social Protection Programs

    - ➢ To **institutionalize the creation of Child-Friendly Schools and Communities** as one of the Social Protection Programs of the Government to secure the protection of children in schools; and

    - ➢ To **include in the monitoring of the Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance indicators** for schools and Local Government Units (LGUs) in promoting the protection and inclusion of illegitimate children
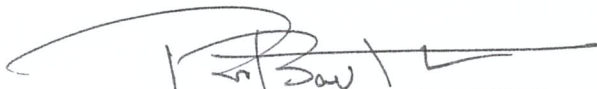
    3.2 To indicate the **roles and responsibilities of the concerned government agencies** for purposes of clarity, efficiency, and effectivity in the implementation of programs promoting the non-discrimination of illegitimate children.

4. Other Comment: to **include Section for Reporting** on who can report and where to report such discrimination.

For consideration of the Committee.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA
Secretary
Date: ___January 24, 2019___