

14 December 2018

**REPRESENTATIVE MARIANO MICHAEL M. VELARDE, JR.**

Chairperson  
Committee on Government Reorganization  
RVM Building, House of Representatives  
Quezon City

Dear Chairperson Velarde:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports **House Bill No. 5305** entitled: An Act Instituting the Citizen Training Course, Establishing the Citizen Service Corps, Creating the Citizen Service Mobilization Commission, Appropriating Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes or the "**Citizen Service Act**", introduced by Representative Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

We are pleased to inform the Chairperson that the proposed measure is consistent with the social protection mandate of the Department by involving the youth in nationalistic and civic affairs namely, peace and order as well as disaster risk-reduction and management.

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

1. **Sec. 3 – Basic Citizen Service Training Course**

1.1 To include the "**Civic Welfare Community Service (CWTS)**" stipulated under Republic Act No. 9163 or the "National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001", as one of the tracks of the Citizen Service Training Course, where the students are trained to respond to specific problems and concerns of marginalized communities. Community work is an important factor in students' personal growth, nurturing their confidence in themselves and a sense of meaningful direction and contribution to society.

1.2 On the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, to define the term "**justifiable causes**" so as not to cause prejudice to the merits of graduation of college students should they fail to take the CSTC in the first two (2) years of all baccalaureate degree courses and technical vocational courses.

2. **Sec. 4 - Coverage**

To consider the coverage of the bill is **age of majority** which is 18 years old and above.

3. **Sec. 5 – Special CSTC for Students under Specific Circumstances**

To **consider the medical conditions** like severe asthma or heart problems that hinder the student from undergoing the physical aspects of training.

4. **Sec. 7 – Preparatory CSTC**

4.1 To add provision on having **child protection policy for schools** that will be implementing the CSTC.

4.2 To require parents' consent for "children" as defined under Republic Act No. 7610 or the "Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act", which refers to person below eighteen (18) years of age or those over but are unable to fully take care of themselves or protect themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition.

5. **Sec. 17 – Components of CTSC**

To include the components on CWTS and literacy training of the NSTP as contributory to the youth's development and involvement in public and civic affairs.

6. **Sec. 34 – Failure to Respond**

To further clarify the provisions of the bill so as to avoid confusions from students and conflicts in the implementation of the proposed measure.

7. **Sec. 35 – Corruption, Graft, Hazing and Other Abuses**

7.1 To include specific safeguards to prevent abuses and corrupt practices in the administration of the proposed Citizen Service Training Course (CSTC) since these will cover children and youth, who belong to the most vulnerable sector of society.

7.2 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.

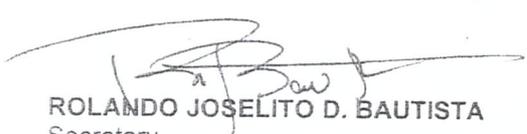
8. **Other Comment**

To involve the National Youth Commission (NYC) and the National Council for Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) for the rights and welfare of IP students in the implementation of this proposed measure.

For the Committee's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA  
Secretary  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_