



27 February 2019

**REPRESENTATIVE ANGELINA D.L. TAN, M.D**

Chairperson  
Committee on Health  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

Dear Representative Tan:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development submits its comments and recommendations on House Bill No. 8615, entitled: An Act Strengthening the Fight to End Tuberculosis, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 10767 or the "Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Plan Act," that seeks to strengthen and expand efforts to eliminate tuberculosis in the country:

On Section 22. **TB-Directly Observed Treatment, Short-Course (TB-DOTS) As Condition for Retention in the Conditional Cash Transfer Program**, we support the introduction of this new section that provides: *"Beneficiaries of the Conditional Cash Transfer Program of the government who has been diagnosed with TB shall be required to undergo TB-Directly Observed Treatment Short-Course (TB-DOTS) as one of the essential conditions for the retention of the program."*

On Section 19. **Convergence of TB Services**, we suggest that the Local Government Units (LGU) through their Local Social Welfare and Development Offices shall cover all indirect costs borne out of accessing TB treatment including transportation, accommodation or halfway house and meals among others. The Department may augment through the Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU).

On Section 28. **Mobilization**, involve the TB patient groups in the planning and implementation of the policies and programs that affected them.

On Section 27. **Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)**, include the Local Government Units (LGUs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), broadcast and print media.

Very truly yours,

  
**ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA**  
Secretary

OFFICE OF HON. HELEN TAN  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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