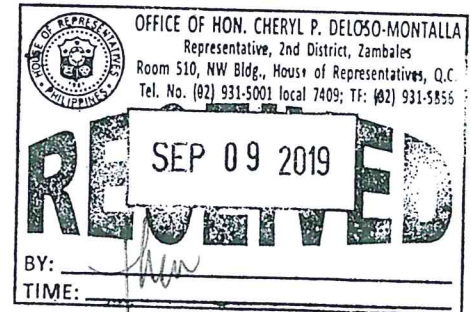


September 03, 2019

**Honorable CHERYL P. DELOSO-MONTALLA**  
Chairperson  
Committee on Revision of Laws  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City



Dear **Representative Deloso-Montalla**:

The **Department of Social Welfare and Development** strongly supports the various bills (HB Nos. 478, 507, 1622, 1939, 2538, 2661 and 3088) on **amending Republic Act No. 8972** Otherwise Known as the **“Solo Parents’ Welfare Act of 2000”**, introduced by Representatives Arlene Brosas et al., Robert Ace Barbers, Lawrence Fortun, Enrico Pineda et al., Aurelio Gonzales, Jr., Jose Antonio Sy-Alvarado, and Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez, respectively.

We are pleased to inform the Chairperson that the proposed measure is one of the supported legislations of the Department for the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress. We also believe that the proposed amendments to expand the definition of “solo parents” and grant additional discounts to the sector will serve as a safety net for the economic respite of playing multiple roles in supporting the needs and concerns of their children.

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

1. To **consolidate the seven (7) bills into one.**
2. On **Section 12 - Additional Benefits of HBN 478**, introduced by Representatives Brosas, Castro, Elago, Cullamat, Zarate, and Gaité and **HBN 2661**, introduced by Representative Jose Antonio Sy-Alvarado
  - 2.1 Item No. 2, to include the **twenty percent (20%) discount on infant formula**. This proposal does not contradict the provision on Executive order No. 51 or the Milk Code of the Philippines. The Milk Code advocates the breastfeeding however, there are instances when breastfeeding is not possible or provides risk to the mother and/or child’s life, thus, the expenses for milk products should still be covered by the proposed measure.
  - 2.2 Item No. 6, to increase the ten percent (10%) discount to **“twenty percent (20) discount”** from school tuition fees per child who are in the college or high school level...

3. **HBN 478** introduced by Representatives Brosas, Castro, Elago, Cullamat, Zarate, and Gaité

3.1 On **Section 15 – Effectivity of this Act**, Item No. 6

To change the Philippine Statistics Office to “**Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)**”.

3.2 On **Section 14 – Penalty Clause**

To include the legal bases of the penalties for purposes of clarity.

3.3 Further, the provision of **intensive counselling and creation of a Help Desk for Solo Parents** should be prioritized.

4. On **HBN 507**, introduced by Representative Barbers

4.1 To establish an organizations or support groups for solo parents; and

4.2 To create a Solo Parents’ Affairs Office in Local Government Units (LGUs) thru the Municipal/City/Provincial Social Welfare and Development Offices, to educate and empower solo parents on their rights and address the needs and concerns of their children.

5. On **HBN 1622**, introduced by Representative Fortun

On **Section 3 (Definition of Terms)**, **letter (d)**, to include the **parental leave of seven (7) days** every year to any solo parent who are employed and has rendered service of at least six months regardless of employment status (regular, casual, contractual, or contract of service).

6. **Other Comment:** In the consolidation and as the omnibus amendments of the bills, to include a clear provision that solo parents who have been reunited with their spouse or partners or have been living with another partner would be withdrawn along with its benefits and privileges.

For the Committee’s consideration.

Very truly yours,



**ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA**

Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_