



Honorable YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ  
Chairperson  
Committee on the Welfare of Children  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

Dear Representative Romualdez:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) **supports** House Resolution No. 342, and House Bill Nos. 2203, 2517, 5307, 5407 and 5542 or the “**Child Friendly Internet Act**”, introduced by Deputy Speaker Rodante D. Marcoleta, Reps. Jose Antonio Sy-Alvarado, Divina Grace C. Yu, Deputy Speaker Dan S. Fernandez, Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, and Florida P. Robes, respectively, which seek to provide protection for children against the adverse effects of deadly online or character-based video games, and violent social media content detrimental to their growth, development, and health. Further, the measures require internet service providers to create child friendly internet package with accompanying penalties for violation, and the promotion of an electronic gadget-free schools both private and public.

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

1. Consolidate all bills into one.
2. **Under House Resolution No. 342**
  - 2.1. To **interchange the sequence** of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> “WHEREAS” clauses; and
  - 2.2. To **revise the last “WHEREAS” clause** to read as: “WHEREAS, the Committee on the Welfare of Children should prescribe **and evaluate** countermeasures in order to curb, if not discourage youngsters from engaging in such character-based video games; Now, therefore, be it.”
3. **Under Sec. 2 of HBN 2203 – Policy**

To include provision on proper investigation on the “victims” of the viral challenges, especially if they are minors.

4. Under **Sec. 3 of HBN 5307**

4.1 To indicate **"Purpose"**, as the Sub-Title of this Section; and

4.2 On **letter (a)**, to include the age restrictions and limitations to be strictly followed by the media platforms.

5. Under **HBN 5542**

5.1 **Sec.4 – Extent of Coverage and Sec. 5 – Exceptions**, to reconcile the age indicated in the Title of the Act, i.e., less than 16 or less than 15 years old;

5.2 **Sec. 6 – Enforcement**, to add a paragraph, which will read as: "The governing body of the school shall designate a storage space with a Security camera, to safeguard mobile devices owned by the student, and to prevent access by anyone without permission."

5.3 To consider reasonable policies on internet safety that will protect not only children 15 years old and below but also children below 18 years old from obtaining harmful online material; and

5.4 To consider requiring internet service providers to install computer software preventing minors from accessing obscene or illegal material that would cause them harm.

6. Under **Sec. 10 of HBN 2517 - Reporting and Regular Inspection of Free Wifi or Internet Zones and Computer Rental Shops**

To include in the inspection process of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or the Local Inspection Team of LGUs the availability of a child friendly internet access prior to issuance of business permits.

7. Under **Sec. 5 – Department of Health, and Sec. 6 – National Privacy Commission of HBN 5307, and Sec. 6 – Role of the Department of Information and Communication Technology of HBN 5407**

7.1 In the consolidation of these bills, to **revise the Sub-Title** to "Roles and Responsibilities of Government Agencies; and

7.2 To **indicate the specific roles and responsibilities** of concerned agencies for transparency and accountability.

8. Under **Sec. 4 – Monitoring and Enforcement of HBN 5307**

8.1 To **add a provision** on mechanisms that allow users to report violations experienced in social media; and

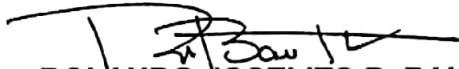
8.2 To include the words "deadly online challenge" in the Definition of Terms.

9. Under Sections 12, 7, and 9 of HBNs 2517, 5307, 5407 and 5542 –  
Implementing Rules and Regulations

To include the Philippine News Agency.

For the Committee's consideration.

Very truly yours,



**ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA**

Secretary

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

MAR 09 2020