

September 04, 2019

Honorable LEILA M. DE LIMA

Chairperson
Committee on Social Justice, Welfare
and Rural Development
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

Dear **Senator De Lima**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) strongly supports Senate Bill Nos. 120, 184 and 299 entitled: "An Act Instituting the Magna Carta for Child Development Workers and Providing Funds Therefor" or the "Magna Carta for Child Development Workers", introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy Binay, the Chairperson, and Senator Ramon Revilla Jr., respectively.

We are pleased to inform the Chairperson that the proposed bill is one of the DSWD's supported legislations for the 18th Congress, which seeks to provide benefits and privileges to accredited Child Development Workers (CDWs), training, education, career enhancement and security of tenure.

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

1. Consolidate the three bills into one.
2. On Sec 7. (Qualifications, Positions and Salary Grade) of SB Nos. 120 and 184, and Sec. 5 (Qualifications) of SBN 299: To include persons with disability and members of the indigenous communities in the recruitment of CDWs.
3. On Sec. 8 (Working Hours) of SBN 299:
 - 3.1 Include the provision of complete emergency response / survival kit if they will be required to render services beyond the required working hours especially during emergency situation.
 - 3.2 Working hours to children during emergency situations should be conducted in child friendly spaces.
4. On Sec 9 (Code of Conduct of Child Development Workers) of SBN 120: To revise the provision, which will be read as follows:

*"Code of Conduct of Child Development Workers – Within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, the Early Childhood Care and Development Council (ECCDC), in consultation with a national organization of Child Development Worker (CDW), shall formulate a Code of Conduct for CDWs **IN LINE WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC) RULES AND REGULATIONS AND***

ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD."

5. On SB Nos. 184 and 299

5.1 Right to Self-Organization (Sec. 11 of SBN 184 and Sec. 10 of SBN 299), to include another sentence in this Section, which will be read as follows:

"THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) SHALL ENCOURAGE THIS ORGANIZATION AND SHALL PROVIDE BUDGET FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION."

5.2 Additional Compensation and Allowances (Sec. 10 of SBN 184 and Sec. 9 of SBN 299), to consider including additional benefits for solo parents.

5.3 Training, Education and Skill Enhancement (Sec. 13 of SB Nos. 184 and 299), to include in this Section the continuous development of standards training module for the CDW's which will be provided by the Local Government Units (LGU) through the Local Social Welfare and Development Office (LSWDO), pursuant to the devolution of Social Service as per Republic Act No. 7160 or the "Local Government Code of 1991".

6. Other Comments:

- a. For consistency, replace "Day Care Worker" to "Child Development Worker" as provided in the Republic Act No. 10410 or the "Early Years Act 2013"; and
- b. We highly recommend adopting Senator De Lima's version of the Magna Carta for CDW's since it is the most comprehensive version.

Attached is a copy of DSWD's Official Position Paper in the 17th Congress provided thru our Records Units on December 14, 2018 for reference.

For the Committee's consideration.

Very truly yours,


ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA

Secretary

Date: _____


LCI/CRM/BMV/JMM

Received by:
Jenny 9/16/2019