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November 15, 2019

HONORABLE RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.
Sub-Committee Chairperson - Designate
Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and
Rural Development
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

Dear Senator Revilla:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) respectfully submits its **comments** on the following bills:

1. On **Senate Bill No. 295** entitled: "An Act Amending Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10868 Otherwise Known as the Centenarians Act of 2016 and for Other Purposes", authored by the Sub-Chairperson –Designate.

We support the intention of the bill that seek to amend Republic Act No. 10868 or the Centenarians Act of 2016 by granting staggered monetary benefits to senior citizens upon reaching the age of 80, 90 and 100 years old to support their needs for maintenance medicines and healthy food.

2. On **Senate Bill No. 296** entitled: "An Act To Establish an Elderly Care and Nursing Complex In Every Province and City and Appropriating Funds Therefor", authored by the Sub-Chairperson –Designate and **Senate Bill No. 737** or "*An Act Establishing a Nursing Home for Homeless and Abandoned Senior Citizens in Every City or Municipality in the Philippines, Appropriating Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes*", authored by Senator Gatchalian.

We also support the creation of facilities for senior citizens in the Local Government Units (LGUs), the appropriation of funds for its operations and its various programs and services. With this, the family members of the senior citizens can visit them without much expense since they are within the same area or location.

We would however recommend that the supervision and management of these centers be under the Local Government Units (LGUs) as supported by the provision of the Local Government Code of 1991 that, "there shall be established in every local government unit an accountable, efficient and dynamic organizational structure and operating mechanism that will meet the priority needs and service requirements of its communities."

3. On **Senate Bill No. 297** entitled: "An Act Expanding the Coverage of Senior Citizens Act, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 7432, as Amended", authored by the Sub-Chairperson = Designate.

We recommend that this proposal be complemented by the review of Article 287 of the Labor Code which also sets the age of at least 60 years old as the retirement age of employees.

4. On **Senate Bill No. 933** entitled: "An Act Granting Senior Citizens a Minimum of 5% Discount on the First 150 Kilowatt Hours of electricity Consumption on the First 50 Cubic Meters of Water Consumption, and Exemption from the Value-Added Tax (VAT), Amending for this Purpose Republic Act No. 9994, Otherwise Known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010", authored by Senator Poe.

On the granting of 5% utility discount on first 150 kwh of electricity, the DSWD recommends to increase the 150 kwh minimum consumption to benefit those sick, bedridden elderly who are dependent on air-conditioning or some other mechanized apparatus utilizing electricity. Also, the granting of 5% utility discount for the first 50 cubic meters water consumption of senior citizens.

For the Committee's consideration.

Very truly yours,



ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA

Secretary

Date: _____