



04 October 2017

**REPRESENTATIVE ANGELINA TAN**

Chairperson  
Committee on Health  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

**Dear Representative Tan:**

This has reference to the request of the House Committee on Health for our Department's official position on the various legislative measures concerning cancer.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development wishes to express its full support on these measures that seek to strengthen government policies and programs on cancer. To contribute to the bills' enhancement, we are also proposing the following:

1. Consolidate the bills into one.

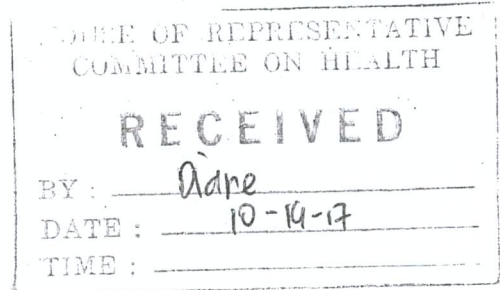
2. For **House Bill No. 897:**

a. Under **Sec. 1:**

- i. On the **second paragraph** - To include the Department of Health (DOH), Local Health Office, and the Local Social Welfare and Development Office (LSWDO) in the identification of indigent and underprivileged cancer patients who are not covered by the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR).
- ii. On the **third paragraph** - To include the DOH and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) in the crafting of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

3. For **House Bill No. 1964:** Under **Sec. 7:**

- a. **Letter (a):** To extend the qualification of eligible beneficiaries to free Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccination and Free Screening and Early Detection Program to those who are not breadwinners or heads of the family, provided they are indigents. The current context should be considered, that women are at risk to cancers caused by HPV (i.e. cervical cancer) and many do not serve as head of the family.
- b. Include Persons with Disability (PWDs) among the qualified recipients of the Free HPV Vaccination and Free Screening and Early Detection Program.



4. For House Bill No. 5378:

- a. Consider strengthening/tapping the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) instead of establishing a new hospital. Further, indigent children with disabilities who acquired cancer should also be given priority.

5. For House Bill No. 6153, 6210 and 6280:

- a. Under **Roles and Functions of the National Integrated Cancer Control Advisory Board (NICCAB)**: Add:

*"Assess and strengthen the organizational capacities of different stakeholders in the areas of sustainable cancer control, cancer education and research in the areas with the long term goal of addressing the factors influencing cancer disparity among Filipinos."*

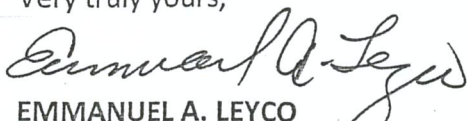
- b. Under **Health Education and Promotion in Communities**: Include the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in the task of promoting cancer-focused health education.
- c. For **House Bill No. 6153**: Under **Sec. 18** – Ensure that health education and promotion are gender, cultural and disability-friendly to better impart knowledge to the targeted vulnerable groups.

6. Other Recommendations:

- a. Include provisions on preventive mechanism on cancer in the draft bills. The bills should not only be responsive to the needs of cancer afflicted individuals but also prevent the spread of cancer especially in the most vulnerable families and communities.
- b. Include a section for Health and Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) service providers to provide benefit packages to cancer patients. The Committee may also consider penalizing refusal to do so.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



**EMMANUEL A. LEYCO**

Undersecretary and Officer-in-Charge