



Department of Social Welfare and Development

DSWD-GF-010 | REV 01 | 17 AUG 2022

**HONORABLE EDWARD VERA PEREZ MACEDA**

Chairperson  
Committee on Revision of Laws  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

Dear **Representative MACEDA**,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) **supports House Bill Numbered 7440** entitled, **“An Act Reclassifying Legitimate Children Into Marital Children and Illegitimate Children Into Non-Marital Children, Hereby Amending the Pertinent Provisions of the Civil Code of the Philippines, the Family Code of the Philippines and Other Pertinent Laws Pertaining to the Distinction Between Marital and Non-Marital Children Formerly Known as Legitimate and Illegitimate Children”**, introduced by Representative Mary Mitzi Cajayon-Uy, which seeks to do away with the terms “legitimate” and “illegitimate” children such as in the case of Gocolay vs. Gocolay, which used the terms “marital” and “non-marital” when referring to children based on their parents’ marital status. The word “illegitimate” is a negative and derogatory connotation because these children did not choose to be in such situation.

We have no further comments on the measure and hope to see the immediate approval of the amendment of the laws with regard to the distinction between marital and non-marital children to ensure protection of children against all forms of discrimination.

This is being submitted for the Chairperson’s consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

**REX T. GATCHALIAN**

Secretary

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

**cc: Representative Mary Mitzi Cajayon-Uy**  
Caloocan City, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

  
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