



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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HON. GRACE POE

Chairperson

Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Senate of the Philippines

Pasay City

Dear Hon. Poe,

The Department of Social and Welfare Development supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 213, entitled **"AN ACT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN OF THE GOVERNMENT AMENDING AND REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISINS OF R.A. 9165,"** introduced by Sen. Gregorio Honasan II.

As our general recommendation, please consider the provisions of R.A. No. 10630, **"AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9344"** particularly the implication on minors who acted with discernment in connection with the diversion proceedings. Likewise, kindly consider our specific suggestions for the improvement of the proposed bill:

1. **On Section 15(c). Authorized Drug Testing, Students of secondary and tertiary schools.** - Drug testing on minors can only be done after obtaining the consent of the parents/guardians. Furthermore, this procedure must be conducted under clear terms and guidelines, with utmost confidentiality and taking into consideration the privacy and dignity of the student, especially the minors.
2. **On Section 24, Compulsory Submission of a Drug Dependent Charged with an Offense to Treatment and Rehabilitation.** - We suggest to include under this section a provision wherein the drug dependent charged is a minor. Under R.A. No. 10630, **"Strengthening the Juvenile and Justice Welfare Act,"** compulsory submission to a centre may not be necessary. We recommend that