



HONORABLE SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
 Chairperson
 Committee on Labor, Employment, and Human Resources
 Senate of the Philippines
 Pasay City

ATTENTION: AMBROSIO M. MANALIGOD, JR.
 Committee Secretary

Dear **Sen. Estrada**,

This refers to your request for a position paper regarding Senate Bills Nos.

- a. **Senate Bill No. 47** – “Indigent Job Applicants Discount Act” (Introduced by Senator Estrada);
- b. **Senate Bill No. 210** – “Poor Job Applicants Discount Act” (Introduced by Senator Tulfo);
- c. **Senate Bill No. 259** – “Kabalikat sa Abot-Kamay na Pagsisimula Act” (Introduced by Senator Revilla);
- d. **Senate Bill No. 2337** – “Kabalikat sa Hanapbuhay Act of 2023” (Introduced by Senator M. Villar);
- e. **Senate Bill No. 2382** – “Indigent Job Applicants Discount Act” (Introduced by Senator Lapid);
- f. **Senate Bill No. 2456** – “Kabalikat sa Hanapbuhay Act” providing for a discount or free certificates for indigent job seekers (Introduced by Senator Estrada)

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) stands firmly behind the noble initiative presented by the esteemed authors of the Senate Bills mentioned above. These bills, aimed at granting our indigent Filipino citizens access to free or discounted certifications vital for employment applications, which resonates deeply with our commitment to uplifting the lives of the underprivileged. In line with its role as a cornerstone of social welfare in the government, the DSWD pledges its unwavering support to any endeavor that empowers indigent Filipinos and enables them to improve their socioeconomic standing. Article XIII Section 3 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution underscores the state’s obligation to safeguard labor rights and foster equal employment opportunities for all, a principle the department

wholeheartedly endorses. To further enrich the proposed legislation, the DSWD humbly submits the following recommendations for the committee's consideration:

1. To streamline the process and ensure consistency with existing laws, we advocate for the issuance of certificates of indigency at no cost, facilitated by the barangays where the indigent job seekers reside. Leveraging the local knowledge of barangay officials will expedite the certification process and accurately identify those in genuine need within their respective communities.
2. In recognizing the importance of inclusivity, we propose extending the benefits of the legislation to include persons with disabilities seeking employment opportunities. We uphold the principles of equity and social justice to foster a more inclusive and compassionate society.
3. The department likewise recommends that indigent job applicants be associated with active labor market programs, and that the assistance to be provided should cover capability building activities such as training and upskilling to match the demands of the market. In championing these proposals, the DSWD reaffirms its commitment to serving the most vulnerable members of society and advocating for policies that promote dignity, equality, and opportunity for all Filipinos. Together, let us forge a path towards a more prosperous and inclusive future for our nation.

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Respectfully submitted for the consideration of the Chairperson.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


REX GATCHALIAN
Secretary

Date: 17 MAY 2024