



10 August 2017

REPRESENTATIVE SOL ARAGONES

Acting Chairperson
Committee on Women and Gender Equality
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear Acting Chairperson Aragones:

This refers to the request of your Committee for our Department's official position on House Bill Nos. 194, 508, 2591, 2932, 3691, 4822 and 5213 which seek to amend Republic Act No. 7877 or the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995.

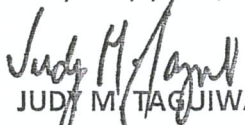
The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports the bills and their intention to expand the acts comprising sexual harassment, covering those which are committed by peers and subordinates and those committed within or outside places of employment, training and education. We also appreciate the premium added on ensuring the right to privacy of the victim-survivors, strengthening monitoring mechanisms and providing penalties for violations of the Act.

To further enhance the bills, may we also share the following comments:

1. Consolidate the seven (7) bills into one (1).
2. The members of the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) should be required to undergo gender-sensitivity trainings in order for them to properly handle cases of sexual harassment.
3. Agencies should also sustain activities to enhance the public's understanding of sexual harassment and its underlying causes to promote sexual harassment-free workplaces.
4. Consult the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for additional inputs on the bills since the agency is launching a new set of rules on sexual harassment as part of the Revised Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
Secretary

REC. per se 8/14/17 3:15 PM