



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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13 January 2017

SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

Chairperson
Committee on Health and Demography
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

Dear **Senator Hontiveros**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports Senate Bill No. 874 entitled, "An Act to Assist Indigent Cancer Patients and Their Families, Establishing for the Purpose a Cancer Assistance Fund and for Other Purposes", introduced by Senator Grace L. Poe, which seeks to appropriate funds to the Cancer Medicine And Treatment Assistance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to prioritize indigent cancer patients as beneficiaries.

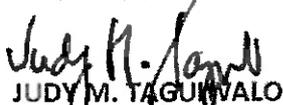
To contribute to the bill's enhancement, we are recommending the following:

1. Under **Sec. 2 – Assistance to Indigent Cancer Patients** - To include the Department of Health (DOH) 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) of DSWD.
2. Under **Sec. 3 - Rules and Regulations**: To include the DOH in the crafting of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

This piece of legislation will certainly be of great support to our indigent cancer patients especially their families who bear the cost of sustaining the patients' specialized health care needs.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
Secretary