



**Republic of the Philippines**  
**Department of Social Welfare and Development**

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**HONORABLE ROGELIO J. ESPINA, M. D.**

Chairman  
Committee on Population  
And Family Relations  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

**Dear Congressman Espina:**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) respectfully supports the intention of House Bill Nos. 779, 1389, 1653 and 3710, entitled: "An Act Establishing And Institutionalizing Long-Term Care For Senior Citizens, Providing Funds Therefor And For Other Purposes, authored by Representatives Gloria and Diosdado Macapagal-Arroyo, Linebelle Ruth R. Villarica and Estrellita B. Suansing, respectively. We welcome these initiatives since it would strengthen the Philippine Plan of Action for Senior Citizens (PPASC) 2012-2016 which is aimed at empowering the Senior Citizens to achieve active ageing.

However, we have noted that the provisions found under Section 4 of the bills on employment, education, health, social services, housing, social pension program, mandatory PhilHealth coverage and social safety nets are already provided under Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9994 or the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010."

Hence, we recommend expanding the concept of National Long-Term Care Program Framework provided under the bills and focus on the concept of active ageing by developing programs that will enable senior citizens to remain actively engaged in as many social, economic, and community activities as possible.

In this light, the Department recommends to strengthen the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board (NCMB) to be the Inter-Agency Council that will oversee implementation of these programs for senior citizens and appropriate funds for its operation.

For the Committee's consideration.

Very truly yours,

  
**CORAZON JULIANO-SOLIMAN**  
Secretary