DSWD
Department of Social Welfare and Development

30 May 2017

Representative ANGELINA D.L. TAN, MD
Chairperson
Committee on Health
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear Representative Tan,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development submits its comments to House Bill No. 5560 or "The Universal Health Care for All Filipinos Act." Universal health care is a basic right of people. Hence, health care service should not be privatized nor commercialized. The trend towards privatization of public hospitals should be arrested because this is contrary to health services for all. This should be included in this bill. In fact, subsidies for public health care services improvement and expansion should be one of the concerns of this bill.

To contribute to the bill's enhancement particularly on Section 11 – Coverage for Indirect Costs, may we recommend the following:

1. Provide the definition of 'indirect cost' and how this may be determined every time a member of the informal sector accesses medical services.

   Related to this, the criteria for screening, procedures for availment of intended services and other relevant operational systems for members of the informal sector should be clearly indicated.

2. There is a need to identify the specific roles and responsibilities of the agencies identified to support the informal sector under this section.

3. Clarify if in general, House Bill No. 5560 will amend Section 29-A of RA 10606 or the National Health Insurance Act of 1995 considering that the said law already mandated the DSWD to provide funds for its clients even those under the care of accredited non-government organizations and private organizations.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
Secretary