



12 May 2017

**SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS**

Chairperson  
Committee on Women, Children  
Family Relations and Gender Equality  
Senate of the Philippines  
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Dear **Chairperson Hontiveros**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development has reservations on **Senate Bill No. 281** entitled: *"An Act Recognizing and Strengthening Alternative Care of Children, Providing Incentives to Agencies Providing the Same"* or the **"Alternative Care of Children Act"**, introduced by Senator Francis Escudero.

We are of the impression that the **proposed Alternative Care of Children (ACC) is a duplication of residential care** - which to us should be the last resort, because we aim to de-institutionalize children in residential care facility by providing alternative family care and promoting independent living as they have the right to have a loving family who will nurture and take care of them. It is not cost efficient on the part of the government to establish another form of residential care because it entails construction of facilities, compensation of personnel, and monthly child care support.

We believe that the provision of a planned temporary substitute parental care is **already covered by Republic Act No. 10165** or the **"Foster Care Act of 2012"**, which is more advantageous to the development of the child as against the institutional concept that this bill proposes. We would also recommend strengthening other existing alternative parental care arrangement i.e. legal guardianship and adoption because family care has been proven to promote positive effects to the child's over-all development.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

**JUDY M. ITAGUIWALO**  
Secretary