



11 July 2017

**Senator JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**  
Chairperson  
Committee on Health and Demography  
Senate of the Philippines  
Pasay City

**Dear Senator Ejercito,**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development submits its comments to Senate Bill Nos. 60 and 1458 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 these bills. In fact, subsidies for public health care services' improvement and expansion should be one of the concerns of the bills.

To contribute to the bills' enhancement may we recommend the following:

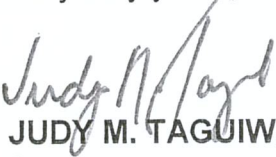
1. Consolidate the two bills into one.
2. On Senate Bill No. 1458:
  - a. On Section 11. Coverage for Indirect Costs, Provide the definition of 'indirect cost' and how this may be determined every time a member of the informal sector accesses medical services.

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.

- b. There is a need to identify the specific roles and responsibilities of the agencies identified to support the informal sector under this section.
    - c. Clarify if in general, Senate Bill No. 1458 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