

06 September 2017

REPRESENTATIVE RAMON H. DURANO, VI
Chairperson
Committee on Basic Education and Culture
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear **Representative Durano:**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports the draft substitute bill on House Bill Nos 74, 217, 320, 741, 1454, 1667, 1709, 1969, 2218, 2236, 2704, 2954, 3391, 3646, 3824, 4034, 4488 and 4625 which seek to establish Special Education (SPED) Centers in all public school divisions.

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

1. On **Sec. 4 – Definition of Terms:** To include the definition of Children and Youth with Disabilities (CYWDs) as defined under the Children and Young People with Disabilities Fact Sheet by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to be read as:

“Children and Youth with Disabilities - refer to children up to the age of 18 who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”

2. On **Sec. 6 – Functions of the Center:**

- a. On **letter (b):** To revise the paragraph which will be read as follows:

*“Support children with **DISABILITIES AND** special needs so that they could be integrated/included in regular schools.”*

- b. On **letter (i):** To change the term Children and Youth with Special Needs (CYSNs) to CYWDs in this section since the auxiliary aids to be provided are applicable to CYWDs.

3. On **Sec 8 – Responsibilities of Agencies, letter (c):** To revise the paragraph which will be read as follows:

*"Role of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) – shall **BE RESPONSIBLE FOR** the effective management **AND PROVISION** of social welfare services for poor and deserving **CYWDs BASED ON THE ASSESSED NEEDS OF THE CYWDs AND SUBJECT TO THE GUIDELINES OF THE DEPARTMENT.**"*

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



EMMANUEL A. LEYCO

Undersecretary and Officer-in-Charge

