



24 January 2017

**REPRESENTATIVE SANDRA Y. ERIGUEL, MD**

Chairperson  
Committee on Social Services  
RVM Building, House of Representatives  
Quezon City

Dear Representative Eriguel:

This has reference to the request of the Committee for our official position paper on **House Bill Nos. 328, 2065 and 3689** entitled: "**An Act Allowing the Rectification of Simulated Births and Prescribing Administrative Adoption Proceedings for the Purpose**" introduced by Representatives Xavier Jesus Romualdo, Emmeline Aglipay -Villar and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, respectively.

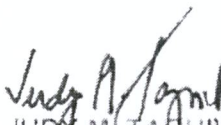
We support the intention of the bills as this is another set of amnesty to those who simulated the birth of children after the one granted under **Section 22 of Republic Act No. 8552** or the "**Domestic Adoption Act of 1998**" which states that "*the application for correction of the birth registration and petition for adoption shall be filed within five (5) years xxx.*"

After a meeting called by Congresswoman Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on January 23, 2017 with DSWD representatives, Congressman Xavier Jesus Romualdo, Atty. Florence Tolentino from Office of Cong, Emmeline Aglipay-Villar and representatives from the Committee on Social Services where further deliberation on the prescriptive period was done, the DSWD hereby recommends the prescriptive period of ten (10) years from the effectivity of the law, after assurance that DSWD's concerns where simulation of births may be encouraged or this may be an indirect way of trafficking of children were addressed with safety measures. The ten-year period is recommended as DSWD has to work on the business process on the Administrative Adoption Proceedings which shall entail series of meetings and consultations and in setting the organizational mechanisms, to ensure a seamless implementation of the law

Further, relative to our proposal for all adoption cases to go through the Administrative Adoption Proceedings, we recommend for a substitute bill that will cover all adoption concerns or a law to repeal RA 8552 or the Domestic Adoption Act of 1998 to fast track adoption cases.

Thank you.

Very truly yours

  
JUDY M. TABUIWALO  
Secretary