

07 December 2017

REPRESENTATIVE SOL ARAGONES

Chairperson
Committee on Population and Family Relations
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear **Chairperson Aragones:**

This refers to the request of your Committee for our Department's official position on House Bill Nos. 116, 1062, 2380 and 6027 on the dissolution of marriage or divorce.

In providing its comments, the Department of Social Welfare and Development considered Section 19 of Republic Act No. 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women (MCW) which provides that "the State shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations and shall ensure the same rights to enter into and leave marriages or common law relationships referred to under the Family Code without prejudice to personal or religious beliefs."

Our Department believes that the enactment into law of these legislative measures other than the existing laws on legal separation, declaration of nullity of marriage and annulment will aid individuals, especially women, who are suffering from various forms of violence from their spouses. These will enable them to end their dysfunctional marriages and regain dignity, self-esteem and worth as persons.

We also wish to emphasize that despite the dissolution of marriage, the best interest of the divorcees' children should never be compromised particularly their legal status, custody and financial support.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



EMMANUEL A. LEYCO

Officer-in-Charge

