



15 May 2017

**REPRESENTATIVE CESAR V. SARMIENTO**

Chairperson  
Committee on Transportation  
RVM Building, House of Representatives  
Quezon City

Dear Chairperson Sarmiento:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports House Bill No. 1319 entitled: An Act Requiring the Use of Child Restraint (Safety Car Seat) Device or System for Children Riding in Running Motor Vehicles or the "Child Restraint Act", introduced by Representative Mariano Michael M. Velarde, Jr.

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

1. **Section 1 – Short Title**

To revise the Short Title into "Child Passenger Safety Act" as "Child Restraint" may provide a negative connotation. The suggested short title is also more fitting to the contents of the bill.

2. **Section 3 – Definition of Terms**

- a. On letter (b), may we recommend to adopt the definition of "children" per Republic Act No. 7610 or the "Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act" which defines

*"Children refers to person below eighteen (18) years of age or those over but are unable to fully take care of themselves or protect themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition."*

- b. On letter (c), to clearly define "Motor vehicle" and its scope.
- c. On letter (d), "child restraint (CR), a child restraint system (CRS), a child restraint device (CRD), or a car safety device:

To consider the age, height, weight, and possible disability of children in the use of CRD in order to ensure their safety while riding a motor vehicle.

3. **Section 5 - Exceptions**

To include special considerations for infants and children with special needs in the use of common CRD.

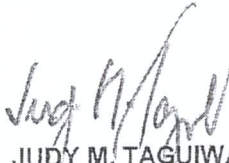
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4. Section 6 – Implementing Agency

- ↓ To include the **conduct of nationwide public information dissemination campaign** as one of the responsibilities of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in coordination with concerned agencies for the efficient and effective enforcement of the law.
  
- ↓ To include the **Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), Department of Health (DOH), and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)** in the formulation of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
JUDY M. TAGUIWALO  
Secretary