

03 January 2018

REPRESENTATIVE BERNADETTE HERRERA - DY

Chairperson
Committee on Public Information
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear **Chairperson Herrera - Dy**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development respectfully submits the following comments and inputs on House Bill Nos. 1524 (*Anti-Obscenity Act of 2016*) and 3694 (*Children's Media Protection Act*):

1. *On House Bill No. 1524 - Anti-Obscenity Act of 2016 filed by Representative Gloria Macapagal – Arroyo*
 - a. Section 3 (Penalties), last sentence: We noted the special consideration given to demonstrators, performers, actors or exhibitors who are below eighteen (18) years old. We propose that this consideration be extended to:
 - a.1 Those beyond 18 years old 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.
 - a.2 Individuals who were victimized by cyber harassment partnered with the unauthorized distribution of their private photos and videos and online pornography (known as electronic Violence against Women and Children or e-VAWC)
 - b. On Section 7 (Disposition of Prohibited Materials): We suggest that the destruction of prohibited materials under this Act be witnessed by representatives from the Local Government Units (LGUs) where these were seized.
 - c. There is a need to identify the lead agency for the implementation of this Act. Further, the Committee may invite representatives from Fine Arts Departments of Universities and Colleges to shed light on the concept of "artistic integrity" especially in the areas of painting and photography.
 - d. The Committee may also consider creating a Technical Working Group (TWG) to study the provisions of related laws i.e. the Anti-Child Pornography Act, the Anti-

Photo and Video Voyeurism Act and the Cybercrime Act to avoid possible duplications.

2. *On House Bill No. 3694 - Children's Media Protection Act filed by Representative Winston Castelo*

- a. We suggest the involvement of the National Council for Children's Television created under Republic Act No. 8370 or the Children's Television Act of 1997 specifically to promote and encourage the production and broadcast of children's television programs. It should be noted that one of the missions of the said Council is to "formulate policies, set standards for children's television and ensure their implementation."
- b. NCCT as well as the Council for the Welfare of Children (composed of DSWD, DOJ, DOLE, DepEd, DOH and DILG) may take part in the formulation of the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations for this Act.
- c. The role of parents / legal guardians in creating supportive home environments relative to screen time should also be harnessed and emphasized.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



EMMANUEL A. LEYCO

Officer-in-Charge

