



24 March 2017

REPRESENTATIVE MARIANO MICHAEL M. VELARDE, JR.

Chairperson
Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear **Chairperson Velarde**:

This refers to House Bill No. 1700 or An Act Granting the Overseas Filipino Workers the Right to Equal Protection on Money Claims, Amending for the Purpose the Fifth Paragraph of Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8042, as Amended by Republic Act No. 10022 and House Bill No. 4740 or An Act Providing for Protection of the Remittances of Overseas Filipino Workers, and for Other Purposes filed by Representatives Tomasito S. Villarín and Aurelio D. Gonzales, Jr., respectively.

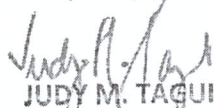
In line with these, the Department of Social Welfare and Development shares the following position:

1. On House Bill No. 1700: We fully support the bill because it remedies a fault in the law which was already declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court for singling out one classification of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) thereby, burdening it with peculiar disadvantages.
2. On House Bill No. 4740: The bill should be further studied and be taken in the full context of the money remittance industry in order to come up with a cost efficient scheme for our OFWs. Further, the Committee may want to look into how House Bill No. 4774 or the Tax Reform Bill will impact the money remittance centers especially in terms of the proposal that they also remit 12% Value Added Tax (VAT). Most likely, this additional burden will again be passed on to our OFWs.

Lastly, we also wish to reiterate the call to create more opportunities for this sector so that instead of leaving, they would choose to stay in the country and use their skills to boost the country's development.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
Secretary