

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

IBP Road, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City 1126

Telephone Nos. (632) 931-8101 to 07; Telefax (632) 931-8191

E-mail: osec@dswd.gov.ph

Website: <http://www.dswd.gov.ph>

05 January 2017

REPRESENTATIVE REYNALDO V. UMALI

Chairperson

Committee on Justice

House of Representatives

Quezon City

Dear **Chairperson Umali**:

This refers to House Bill No. 2319 or "An Act Enhancing Protection for Women Inmates Held in Jails and Correctional Facilities" filed by Representative Mauyag "Jun" Papandayan, Jr.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports the intention of the bill to improve the ratio of women reformation personnel to women detainees as a strategy to eliminate abuses mostly committed by male prison guards.

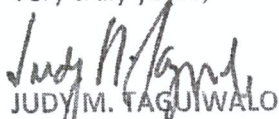
In line with this, we believe that other considerations may also be looked into by the Committee to improve the condition of women in detention facilities. These include the women detainees':

1. Physical and medical needs e.g. for monthly periods - hygiene/sanitary kits; when pregnant - nutrition requirements, ante- and post-natal care and procedures for restraint and transportation
2. Psychosocial needs e.g. support services if detainee has been subjected to gender-based violence or if she has child dependent concerns
3. Procedures on how the detainee will be handled, searched and transported in general

There is also added value if the assigned women reformation personnel will be exposed to gender-sensitivity trainings to be more responsive to the needs of women detainees.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
Secretary