

23 February 2018

**REPRESENTATIVE ANGELINA D.L. TAN**

Chairperson  
Committee on Health  
House of Representatives  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

Dear **Chairperson Tan**:

This has reference to the request of the Committee on Health for our Department's official position on House Bill Nos. 254, 255, 291, 608, 882, 1335, 1414 and 2326 on organ donation.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development wishes to express its support on the aforementioned bills as these encourage organ donation in the country and ensure that the donated organs do not come from trafficked persons. We are also pleased to note that the bills highlighted the prioritization of Filipino organ recipients and emphasized that indigency should not be a hindrance in availing quality health care services.

To contribute to the bills' enhancement, we are also recommending the following:

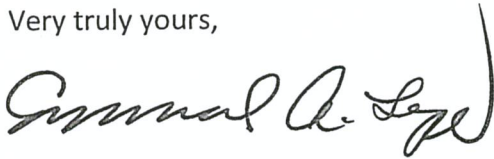
1. Consolidation of the bills into one.
2. On the Definition of Terms: An indigent should be defined as "a person who has no visible means of income, or whose income is insufficient for the subsistence of his/her family, as identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development" to be consistent with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10606 or the National Health Insurance Act of 2013.
3. Due reference should be made to the Declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism which is currently being updated by the Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group (DICG) particularly on the:
  - a. Provision of psychosocial care at the time of donation and for any short or long term consequence related to said donation. This may be carried out by

mental health professionals or registered social workers stationed in our health care facilities.

- b. Raising the public's awareness on the National Organ Donation and Transplantation System versus Organ Trafficking.
  - c. With regard to reimbursement of actual and documented costs of organ donation, giving emphasis that financial consideration or material gain of either the donor or recipient should never outweigh their health condition and well-being.
4. The medical and scientific details of organ donation and transplantation presented in the bills should be further consulted with the Department of Health (DOH) as the country's health policy-maker and regulatory institution.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emmanuel A. Leyco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

**EMMANUEL A. LEYCO**  
Officer-in-Charge