

22 January 2018

**REPRESENTATIVE SOL ARAGONES**

Acting Chairperson  
Committee on Women and Gender Equality  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

Dear **Acting Chairperson Aragones:**

This refers to the request of your Committee for our Department's official position on House Bill Nos. 2592 and 5153 or An Act Amending Republic Act No. 9262, Defining Electronic Violence against Women or E-VAW, Providing Protective Measures and Prescribing Penalties Therefore, and for Other Purposes filed by Representatives Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica and Gus S. Tambunting, respectively.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports the intention of these bills to address emerging forms of violence against women and their children resulting from the use of information and communications technology. Since the provisions of these bills are similar to those of House Bill No. 2664 or the E-VAW in Anti-VAWC Law filed by Gabriela Women's Party, we recommend their consolidation into one.

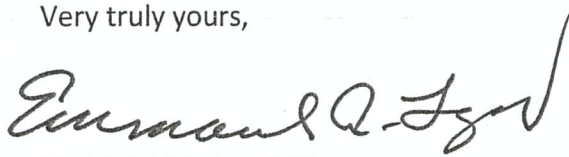
Further, in addition to our position paper dated 27 February 2017 on House Bill No. 2664, may we share with you these additional comments on House Bill No. 2592:

1. On Section 8 – Establishment by the Department of Justice (DOJ) of the Address Confidentiality Program for the Victim-Survivors: The principle of confidentiality is upheld by all government agencies especially by our Department in its social case management processes. Another law may no longer be necessary since protocols and guidelines that address confidentiality are already in place.
2. On Section 9 - Prescribing the Penalties for an Immediate Superior or Senior Official of an Agency who Denies Application for Leave of Absence by a Victim-Survivor of Violence Against Women and their Children:
  - a. Similar to our comment on Section 8, protocols and guidelines that address the grant of leave of absence (LOA) to a victim-survivor of violence are already in place and another law may no longer be necessary.

- b. The section's intention may be addressed by more aggressive monitoring of the implementation of RA 9262's Implementing Rules and Regulations particularly Section 42. Further, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), as the mandated agencies, may just intensify the implementation of existing protocols and guidelines and conduct more information campaigns on the matter to encourage compliance.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



**EMMANUEL A. LEYCO**

Undersecretary and Officer-in-Charge

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