



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](mailto:osec@dswd.gov.ph)

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

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**REPRESENTATIVE NANCY A. CATAMCO**

Chairperson

Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities  
and Indigenous People

House of Representatives

Quezon City

Dear **Chairperson Catamco**:

This refers to House Bill No. 2886 or "An Act Strengthening the Health Care System in Cultural and Indigenous Communities by Institutionalizing the Training and Employment of Tribal Health Workers and for Other Purposes" filed by Representative Gloria Macapagal – Arroyo.

Our Department supports the intention of the bill to facilitate access of indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples to basic health services. To contribute to the bill's enhancement, may we also recommend the following:

1. **On Section 5 – Selection and Training of Tribal Health Workers:** The training of tribal health workers should primarily consider their needs and aspirations, culture and tradition, language and learning styles.
2. **On Section 7a – Free Health Care Insurance and Hospitalization:** Tribal health workers may be considered as extensions of health service providers. As such, the benefits to be accorded them, including health care insurance and hospitalization, should be lodged with the Department of Health (DOH) instead of the DSWD.

Further, there is a need to clarify whether the DSWD being referred to under this section is the Local Social Welfare and Development Office given the provisions of the Local Government Code devolving social welfare programs, services and personnel to the Local Government Units (LGUs).

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

JUDY M. TAGUIWALO  
Secretary