

28 March 2017

REPRESENTATIVE EVELINA G. ESCUDERO
Chairperson
Committee on Basic Education and Culture
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear **Representative Escudero**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports House Bill Nos 74, 217, 320, 741, 1454, 1667, 1709, 1969, 2218, 2236, 2704, 2954, 3391, 3646, 3824, 4034, 4488 and 4625 which seek to establish Special Education (SPED) Centers in all public school divisions.

To contribute to the bills' enhancement, we recommend the following:

1. Consolidate the bills into one.
2. Under **Staffing and Responsibilities**: Consider including licensed social workers who have knowledge, skills and training in handling cases of Children and Youth with Special Needs (CSYNs) as part of the SPED Center staff.
3. Under **Authority of the Secretary of Education to Give Grants to, or Enter Into Cooperative Arrangements for the Creation of SPED Centers**: To read as:

*"The Secretary of Education is hereby authorized to give grants to, or enter into cooperative arrangements or contracts with public or private nonprofit agencies, institutions or organizations, **DULY ACCREDITED OR RECOGNIZED BY THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**, for the establishment or creation of SPED Centers or the implementation of programs such as the following:..."*

4. Under **Parent, Sibling, and Caregiver Education**: To read as:

*"A formal training and counseling program shall be developed through joint efforts of the DepEd, the DSWD and the LGUs to equip **FAMILY MEMBERS, GUARDIANS, caregivers AND DAY CARE WORKERS** of children with special"*

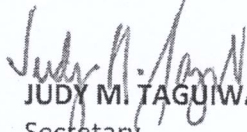
5. Under **Public Information, Education and Communication**: To include the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA).
6. **Implementing Rules and Regulations**: To include the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and National

Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) and organizations of PWDs in the crafting of the Implementing Rules and Regulations.

7. Take into consideration the Community-based Rehabilitation Program pursuant to Executive Order 437 series of 2005 in the discussion of SPED Centers.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
Secretary