

27 October 2017

HONORABLE SOL ARAGONES

Chairperson
Committee on Population and Family Relations
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear Representative Aragones:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) respectfully submits its comments on the following bills/resolution:

1. On **House Bill Nos. 866** and **4730** or "*An Act To Establish An Elderly Care And Nursing Complex in Tarlac/City of Paranaque*"

We recommend to revisit the implementation of the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010" particularly Section 5.c. paragraph 3 which states: "Throughout the country, there shall be established a "senior citizens ward" in every government hospital. This geriatric ward shall be for the exclusive use of senior citizens who are in need of hospital confinement by reason of their health conditions."

Further, to assist the Committee in determining the feasibility of establishing similar facilities and its requirements, we recommend to look at the National Center for Geriatric Health (NCGH) in San Miguel, Manila as the country's premier specialty center providing comprehensive healthcare for senior citizens, out-patient services, home care services and emergency unit. The center, established and in operation since 2010, could serve as a model for establishing similar facilities for senior citizens.

2. On **House Bill No. 5929** or "*An Act Creating A Publicly Funded Shelter Home or House For The Aged For Every City and Municipality In The Country,*" **House Bill No. 1821** or "*An Act To Establish A Nursing Home For Abused, Abandoned, And Homeless Senior Citizens In The Fifth District Of Quezon City, Appropriating Funds Therefor And For Other Purposes*" and **House Resolution No. 1100** or Resolution Mandating The Establishment Of Government-Run Nursing Homes Or Assisted Living Care Facilities In Provinces All Throughout The Country That Cater Relevant Services To The Elderly

We support the creation of facilities for senior citizens in the Local Government Units (LGUs), the appropriation of funds for its operations and various programs

and services for them. We would however recommend that the supervision and management of these centers be under the Local Government Units (LGUs) as supported by the provision of the Local Government Code of 1991 that, "there shall be established in every local government unit an accountable, efficient and dynamic organizational structure and operating mechanism that will meet the priority needs and service requirements of its communities." In addition, the family members of these senior citizens can visit them without much expense since they are within the same area or location.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Emmanuel A. Leyco".

EMMANUEL A. LEYCO
Officer-In-Charge