



8 May 2017

**REPRESENTATIVE SOL ARAGONES**

Chairperson

Committee on Population and Family Relations

RVM Bldg., House of Representatives

Quezon City

Dear **Chairperson Aragones:**

The **Department of Social Welfare and Development supports House Bill No. 4742** entitled: An Act Providing for a National Policy in Preventing Teenage Pregnancies, Institutionalizing Social Protection for Teenage Parents, and Providing Funds Therefor or the **“Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy Act of 2017”**, introduced by the Chairperson.

To contribute to the bill’s enhancement, we are recommending the following:

**1. Section 4 – Development of National Program of Action and Investment Plan for the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy**

To include the **Commission on Higher Education (CHED)** in the development of evidence-based medium term National Program of Action and Investment Plan for the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy.

**2. Section 5 – Organization and Mobilization of Regional and Local Information and Service Delivery Network for Adolescent Health and Development (ISDN for AHD)**

Instead of mapping and analyzing the various factors contributing to adolescent pregnancy, ISDN for AHD may already make use of the results of national surveys such as the National Demographic and Health Survey and the Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey. The local ISDN can also include the existing children and youth structure at the local level.

**3. Section 7 – Training of Teachers, Guidance Counselors, and School Supervisors on CSE**

To include **public health workers engaged in the delivery of health care services** e.g. doctors, nurses, midwives, and barangay health workers in the training on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) to effectively assist or guide adolescents in dealing with their sexuality-related concerns.

**4. Section 8 – CSW for Out-of-School Adolescents and those with Special Concerns**

To include the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) through the Local Government Units (LGUs) to intensify and institutionalize interactive learning methodologies for CSW among out-of-school adolescents in the communities and workplaces.

**5. Section 10 – Mandatory Establishment of Functional Local Teen Centers for Adolescent Health and Development**

Instead of establishing a Functional Local Teen Center for Adolescent Health and Development, we propose to **maximize the use of School Clinics, Barangay Health Centers, and Rural Health Units** to provide the necessary health services.

**6. Section 13 - Access to Reproductive Health Services**

The bill may already remedy some of the gaps/lapses in the **Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law** especially those related to access of minors to reproductive health services.

**7. Section 14 – Social Protection for Teenage Mothers or Parents**

The interventions should not only be limited to female adolescents but should also cover their partners, families and communities as support systems.

**8. Section 18 – Preventing Adolescents’ Involvement in other Risky Behaviors that are Facilitative of Engagement in Sexual Activities**

✚ We recommend that parents and guardians should be involved not only in the CSW but be provided with parenting seminars to emphasize their important role and responsibility in the holistic development of their children/wards.

✚ The **programs of PopCom for parents and families** may be expanded and integrated in the programs of the Local Government Units (LGUs).

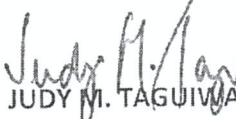
**9. Section 19 – Duties and Functions**

On letter (c), the referred to **Social Protection scheme** should be clarified before the DSWD is identified to lead in its implementation. Upon review, most of the identified services are within the mandate of the **Department of Health (DOH)**.

For consideration of the Committee.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
JUDY M. TAGUIVALO  
Secretary