

06 November 2017

REPRESENTATIVE REYNALDO V. UMALI

Chairperson
Committee on Justice
RVM Building, House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear Chairperson Umali:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports **House Bill No. 5897: An Act Granting Survivorship Benefits to the Dependent Children of a Deceased Retired Member of the Judiciary**, Who is a Solo Parent as Defined under R.A. 8972, and the Surviving Parents, or Nominated Persons of the Deceased Retiree, Amending Republic Act No. 910 as Amended by Republic Act No. 9946, and for Other Purposes and **House Bill No. 5898: An Act Granting Survivorship Benefits to the Dependent Children of a Deceased Retired Chairman or Commissioner of the Commission on Elections, Commission on Audit, Civil Service Commission, and the Ombudsman**, Who is a Solo Parent as Defined Under R. A. 8972, and the Surviving Parents, or Nominated Persons of the Deceased Retiree, Amending Republic Act No. 10084, and for Other Purposes, introduced by Rep. Rodolfo C. Fariñas.

To contribute to the bills' enhancement, we are recommending the following:

1. To consolidate the bills into one.
2. We noted that the proposed amendment by HBN 5897 to Section 1 of RA 9946 provides, that:

*"SECTION 1-A. IN CASE THE DECEASED RETIRED CHAIRMAN OR COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS, THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT, THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, AND THE OMBUDSMAN WAS **UNMARRIED**, THE SURVIVORSHIP BENEFITS SHALL BE PAID AS FOLLOWS: ... [emphasis supplied]"*

while the proposed amendment by HBN 5898 in Section 3 of RA 10084 provides, that:

*"IN CASE THE DECEASED JUSTICE OR JUDGE OR ANY COURT IN JUDICIARY, IF SUCH JUSTICE OR JUDGE HAS RETIRED, OR WAS ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE OPTIONALLY AT THE TIME OF DEATH, WAS **SINGLE**, THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS SHALL BE PAID AS FOLLOWS: ... [emphasis supplied]"*

May we recommend to delete the words "**unmarried**" and "**single**" to avoid **misinterpretation** since the bills are intended to apply to solo parents as defined under Republic Act No. 8972 or the "**Solo Parents' Welfare Act of 2000**".

3. Consider expanding the coverage of the law to provide survivorship benefits to children of deceased Solo Parents in the Executive Branch of Government and not just the Ombudsman, members of the Judiciary and Constitutional Commissions. This will give due consideration to the special circumstances experienced by solo parents in other settings and would give premium to government employees who served faithfully despite circumstances.

4. Inclusion of Sections for the **Screening and Selection of Beneficiaries** and **formulation of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)**.

For consideration of the Committee.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emmanuel A. Leyco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

EMMANUEL A. LEYCO
Officer-in-Charge