

20 February 2018

REPRESENTATIVE ANGELINA TAN

Chairperson
Committee on Health
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear **Representative Tan**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development wishes to express its support on House Bill No. 6934 entitled, "An Act Instituting a Philippine National Autism Care Plan for the Support of Persons with Autism and for Other Purposes", authored by Representative Tom S. Villarín which seeks to institute a Philippine National Autism Care Plan.

To contribute to the bill's enhancement, we are also proposing the following:

1. The Committee should clarify the role of the proposed Autism Council. Councils are policy-making bodies. However, the bill mandates the Autism Council to implement and deliver programs and services for persons with autism and their families.
2. Under **Section 5 – Continuing Education and Training on Autism for Public Service Providers**: Include local social welfare and development offices (LSWDOs) as they play a vital role in the promotion and provision of services at the local level.
3. Under **Section 8 – Early Detection and Intervention of Autism**: Revise to read as follows:

*"The DOH in coordination with DepEd, **DSWD, ALL PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND OTHER SIMILAR GROUPS PROVIDING THE SAME SERVICES TO CHILDREN, is hereby mandated to establish a program for...**"*

4. Under **Section 12 – Protection in Cases of Disasters and Emergencies**: Revise to read as follows:

*The DILG and DND shall formulate the necessary policies and protocols to ensure the military, public safety professionals, local government units, and first responders shall provide the necessary life-saving support to PWAs with behavioral and communication challenges **AND ENSURE THEIR INCLUSION IN THE LIST OF PRIORITY SECTORS.**"*

5. Under **Section 16 – Composition of the Autism Council of the Philippines**:

a. Include the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) as member of the proposed council since CWC chairs the Sub-Committee on Children with Disabilities and Early Childhood Care and Development Council (ECCD).

b. Under 2nd paragraph: Revise to read as follows:

*"The members of the Council from the government agencies and institutions may designate their permanent and **ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES** who shall..."*

6. Under **Section 18 – Meetings**: The Committee may consider quarterly meetings following the practice of inter-agency bodies and sub-committees on persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Very truly yours,



EMMANUEL A. LEYCO

Undersecretary and Officer-in-Charge

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