

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

IBP Road, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City 1126

Telephone Nos. (632) 931-8101 to 07; Telefax (632) 931-8191

E-mail: osec@dswd.gov.ph

Website: <http://www.dswd.gov.ph>

28 October 2016

REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK "ERICK" F. ABUEG

Chairperson

Committee on Social Services

House of Representatives

Constitution Hills, Quezon City

Dear **Chairperson Abueg**:

This refers to the request of your Committee for our Department's official position on House Bill No. 3028 or An Act Granting Fifty Percent (50%) Discount from Funeral Services to Indigent Families and Granting Free Funeral Services for Extremely Poor Families Nationwide, Appropriating Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes filed by Representative Carlos Isagani T. Zarate of BAYAN MUNA Party List.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development expresses its support on this bill and its intent to provide immediate relief to the poor especially during times of loss.

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

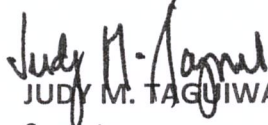
1. Revisit the short title of the bill particularly its reference year.
2. Pursuant to the devolution of basic social services under Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code, we believe that Local Government Units (LGUs) are in a better position to facilitate the provision of the intended discount. Aside from being frontliners in service delivery, LGUs are also responsible for issuing permits to mortuaries/funeral parlors and overseeing their operations.
3. Include a section on how the intended beneficiaries will be screened and selected after submitting the documentary requirements. We recommend that assessment by registered social workers from the Local Social Welfare and Development Office (LSWDO) be undertaken to determine the eligibility of applicants.
4. The LGUs thru the Leagues of Provinces, Cities and Municipalities should also be primarily responsible for crafting the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

of this Act in coordination with proprietors of mortuaries/funeral homes and concerned non-government organizations (NGOs) serving the poor.

5. The funds to cover the reimbursements of mortuaries/funeral homes should likewise be lodged with the LGUs instead of the DSWD.
6. Lastly, the Committee may want to look into the funeral needs of unclaimed and unidentified persons as they also have the right to receive decent burials.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
Secretary