



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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27 April 2016

HONORABLE AURORA ENERIO-CERILES

Chairperson

Committee on the Welfare of Children

RVM Building, House of Representatives

Quezon City

Dear **Congresswoman Enerio-Ceriles**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development fully supports House Bill No. 2811 entitled: "**Alternative Child Care Code of 2013**," introduced by Representatives Diosdado Macapagal Arroyo and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, which seeks to codify the existing laws on alternative child care, such as the law on domestic adoption and inter-country adoption, the foster care law, and guardianship law leading to adoption, to a single deposit of law.

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

1. **Sec. 3 – Definition of Terms,**

1.1 On letter (e), **Agency adoption**: To change "*licensed adoption agency*" and "*licensed/accredited child placing agency*" to "*DSWD licensed and accredited Child-Placing Agency.*"

1.2 On letter (cc): To change "*Foster Placement Certificate*" to "*Foster Family Care License*. This would refer to the document issued by the DSWD authorizing the Foster Parent(s) to provide Foster Care."

1.3 On letter (rr), **Placement** shall refer to the physical transfer of a Foster Child to the foster or adoptive family."

2. **Sec. 4 – The National Child Care Authority**

The integration of offices of domestic and inter-country adoption and foster care into the National Child Care Authority (NCCA), should need deeper consultation with other agencies i.e. Inter-Country Adoption Board (ICAB).

3. **Sec. 7 – Functions of Domestic Child Care Division and the Inter-Country Child Care Division**

On letter (A), to **delete function no. 3** is the same with item. No. 2.

4. **Sec. 43 – Succession**

To amend the provision because it may be presumed that the national laws on succession of some adoptive parents are not beneficial to the adopted child. In this case, the national law of the adoptive child should govern.

5. **Sec. 57 – Who May Foster**

Alien applicants should have additional qualifications such as he/she must be legally documented and must express his/her intention to maintain such residence until the termination of the placement, as provided for in **Republic Act No. 10165** or the **“Foster Care Act of 2012”**.

6. **Sec. 67 – Foster Family Incentives**

The amount of the monthly subsidy or adjustments therein should be determined by the concerned government agency, if warranted by changes in the country's socio-economic conditions.

7. **Sec. 72 – Guardianship as Alternative Child Care** in relation to **Sec. 73 – Petition for the Adoption of the Ward under Book IV (Guardianship Leading to Adoption)**

These Sections **should be integrated under Book II (Adoption)**, as a separate provision pertaining to guardians who opt to adopt their ward.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


CORAZON JULIANO – SOLIMAN
Secretary