



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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REPRESENTATIVE AURORA ENERIO-CERILES

Chairperson
Committee on the Welfare of Children
RVM Building, House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear **Representative Enerio-Ceriles**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development **supports House Bill No. 516** entitled: **“Positive and Non-Violent Discipline of Children Act”**, introduced by Representative Bernadette Herrera-Dy, which seeks to protect the best interest of the child by promoting positive and non-violent discipline in all settings and penalizing those who commit acts which would constitute corporal and humiliating punishment.

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

1. **Sec. 7 – Option for Interventions**

Change SWDO to Local Social Welfare and Development Office (LSWDO) to cover Provincial/City/Municipal Social Welfare and Development Offices.

2. **Sec. 13 – Who May File a Complaint**

a. On **letter (a)**, to change **“Offended party assisted by an adult”** to **“Offended party”**.
The assistance of an adult should not be required to file a complaint especially when the physical punishment is severe and needs urgent intervention. Also, there are instances when a child does not have other company except for the offender. Offenders, especially in the case of parents, may have the tendency to talk to the child to withdraw the complaint.

Presence and assistance of an adult may be requested once the child is safe and has already been briefed by a service provider.


b. Include investigation officers in the list of persons who may file a complaint.

3. **Sec. 16 – Duties and Responsibilities of Government Agencies**

- a. To enhance item (a) which will be read as ***“The DSWD in coordination with other government agencies such as: DepEd, TESDA, CHED, DILG, DOLE, and PNP shall formulate a comprehensive program to promote the positive and nonviolent discipline of children xxx.”***
- b. To include, ***“The DSWD shall integrate positive discipline in the capacity building activities for the LSWDOs to enable them to provide counseling and appropriate intervention program for both offended child and offender.”***

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
Secretary