

**Republic of the Philippines**  
**Department of Social Welfare and Development**

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02 November 2016

**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 Nos. 13, 1280, 2345 and 3050** entitled: “**Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act**”, introduced by Representatives Feliciano Belmonte, Jr., Jose Christopher Belmonte, Manuel Jose Dalipe, and Gus Tambunting, respectively, which seek to provide children in armed conflict special protection from all forms of abuse, violence, neglect, discrimination, and other conditions prejudicial to their growth and development.

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

1. To consolidate the bills into one. House Bill Nos. 13, 1280 and 2345 are identical bills.
2. To look into the following policies/guidelines as further references:
  - ✦ **Executive Order No. 310** entitled: “*Authorizing the Adoption and Implementation of the Philippine National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children, 2000-2025 or CHILD 21 and Its Accompanying Medium Term Plan and Framework*”; and
  - ✦ **Executive Order No. 138**, Series of 2013 entitled: “*Amending Executive Order (EO) No. 56 (s. 2001) Adopting the Comprehensive Program Framework for Children in Armed Conflict, Strengthening the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and for Other Purposes*”;

3. **Sec. 5 – Definition of Terms**

On letter (e), to include Child Development Centers (formerly known as Day Care Centers) and child caring institutions, where children are usually found.

4. **Sec. 7 – Rights of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict**

On letter (c), to revise the phrase “*the right to be considered as object of special respect*” to “***the right to be accorded with special respect.***”

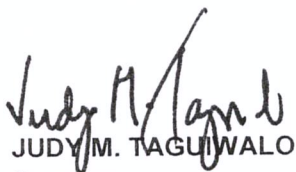
5. To include a Section **on the Functions of the Inter-Agency Committee on Children in Armed Conflict (IAC-CIAC)** which is being chaired by CWC. The Committee may adapt the functions of the IAC-CIAC which are stipulated in EO No. 138 which read as follows:

*"The IAC-CIAC shall advocate for the protection of children and the prevention of the involvement of children in armed conflict, and shall:*

- a. Ensure that international instruments such as the UN CRC, the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and other related human rights treaties are considered in all actions taken;*
- b. Formulate guidelines and develop programs, in coordination with concerned agencies, for the handling of children involved in armed conflict and monitor/document cases of capture, surrender, arrest, rescue or recovery by government forces;*
- c. Conduct human rights training, advocacy and information campaigns and capability-building of LGUs;*
- d. Implement a monitoring, reporting, and response system for grave child rights violations in situations of armed conflict; and*
- e. Work closely with concerned agencies in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the enhanced CIAC Program Framework."*

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
JUDY M. TAGUIWALO  
Secretary