

Honorable MA, LOURDES ACOSTA-ALBA Chairperson Committee on Women and Gender Equality RVM Building, House of Representatives Quezon City

## Dear Chairperson Acosta-Alba:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) fully supports House Bill Nos. 479, 2266, 3330 and 5223 entitled: "Expanded Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children (E-VAWC) Act", introduced by Representatives Brosas, Fortun, Tambunting, and Rodriguez, respectively and House Bill No. 4888 or the "Anti-Violence Against Partners and Their Children Act or Anti-VAPC Law", introduced by Representative Juan Fidel Felipe Nograles.

The DSWD advocated for the immediate enactment of the proposed measure since the previous Congresses. We believe that penalizing violators of the law will further promote and protect the rights of women and children, particularly those who will manipulate and take advantage of technology. Women and children have become victims of perverse recording and photography as well as the reproduction and distribution of malicious contents which causes or will likely to cause mental, emotional, or psychological distress or suffering to the victims.

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

- 1. Consolidate the bills into one; and
- 2. On Sec. 8 Sec. 39 (Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and Their Children) of RA 9262

To include the Department of Information and Communications and Technology (DICT), in coordination with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), to closely monitor as well as to efficiently and effectively execute the provisions stipulated under Sections 4 (Penalties) and 6 (Protection Orders) of HB Nos. 479, 226 and 3330.

For the Committee's consideration.

Very truly yours,

ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA Secretary Date:

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