



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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HONORABLE AQUILINO "Koko" PIMENTEL, III

Chairperson
Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Senate of the Philippines
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Dear Senator Pimentel:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports **Senate Bill Nos. 351, 81, 1757, 444, 1758, and 1957**, introduced by Senators Legarda, Binay, Santiago, Escudero, and Jinggoy Estrada, respectively which aim to provide social protection for children.

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

A. SB No. 351: National Missing Children Recovery Program Act of 2013
introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

- ✦ On **Sec. 3 (Definition of Terms)**, to clearly define "*missing child*" which would include children who have been separated because of natural or manmade disaster.
- ✦ On **Sec. 5 (Duties and Functions of the Sectoral Panel), Item 1 (a)**, to include the sentence: "*and providing safety nets for the unaccompanied and separated children to prevent abuse from happening.*"
- ✦ On **Sec. 6 (Duties and Functions of the Chairperson)**, to clearly specify the Chairperson's qualification-requirement.

B. SB Nos. 81 & 1757: Parents in Jail Act of 2013 and Mothers in Jail Act
introduced by Senators Maria Lourdes Nancy Binay and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, respectively

- ✦ To consolidate the proposed measures into one.
- ✦ To align the privilege provided by the proposed bills with the effect of penalty of civil interdiction, particularly the suspension of the exercise of parental authority, imposed on grave criminal offenses whenever there is conviction.
- ✦ On **Sec. 5 (Coordinating Body), Item (c)**, the program should be specified for the "*rehabilitation of incarcerated mothers.*"

‡ On Sec. 6 (*Child-Friendly Visitation Programs*), to provide a case plan or service agreement for the visitation process with consideration of the following aspects: safety concerns, parents and child’s agreement on relative visitation rights, among others.

‡ On Sec. 7 (*Independent Monitoring*), to revise the 2nd Sentence which will be read: “*The Coordinating Body shall assign persons and grant permit to independent organizations without discrimination to conduct independent monitoring of the various prison facilities.*” Further, to include faith-based organizations with prison outreach programs/activities.

‡ On Sec. 8 (*Appropriations*), to include allocation for the establishment, construction and maintenance of the mother and child visitation facility/ room in prisons.

Further, the implementation of this Act must be headed by the DOJ and/or Bureau of Corrections. A group of specialist such as PNP’s Women’s desk within this agency or every jailhouse can also be organized to respond to the concerns of detention center.

On the other hand, once the bill is enacted into law, to specify in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) the various options available to the defendants and the procedures involved that need to be explained by the DSWD.

C. SB No. 1758: National Child Abuser Registration Act
introduced by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago

‡ On Sec. 2 (*Definitions*) Item (a), to adopt the definition of “Child” as provided in RA 7610.

‡ On Sec. 4 (*Reporting by Government Agencies and Non-Government Organizations*), to mandate reporting of child abusers at the local level through the Local Social Welfare and Development Offices (LSWDOs) and Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPCs) which are under Local Government Units (LGUs). Also, to include the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) as one of the concerned NGAs.

‡ To include a provision on the mechanisms and systems on accessing database of registered child offenders.

D. SB No. 1957: Bill of Rights for Children Victims Act
introduced by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada

‡ On Sec. 15 (*Child Care Worker Employee Background Check*), to rephrase the sentence “*xxx shall require a report of the criminal history of specified employees*” to “*xxx shall require a regular background check of the concerned employees.*”

‡ To include a provision for the permanent protection order of child victims from further harassment of his/her perpetrator/s who can either be their parents or other persons that may lead or affect the criminal case filed against the perpetrator.

E. SB No. 444: Parents Empowerment Act
introduced by Sen. Francis Escudero

- ✦ On Sec. 5 (*Definition of Terms*), item no. 3: definition of "Minor", to adopt the definition of "Child" as provided in RA 7610 or the "*Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act.*"

For consideration of the Committee.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


CORAZON JULIANO - SOLIMAN
Secretary