



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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HONORABLE AURORA ENERIO-CERILLES

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

Dear Congresswoman Enerio-Cerilles:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports House Bill No. 5062, entitled: "*Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act*," introduced by Rep. Susan Yap, which seeks to establish a strategic program of action for the government to immediately provide relief and protection for children during calamity, disaster, and emergency situation.

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

1. On Sec. 3 - Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children

- ↓ To include the DILG, DOH, DepEd, Local Government Units, NDRRMMC and Local DRRMC to engage in the implementation of the program for a more holistic and coordinated approach for the protection of children.
- ± Item (a): Establishment of Shelter for Displaced Children
  - To establish a "Women and Children Friendly Space", which is being implemented by the Department in evacuation camps.
  - To involve the NHA, DENR, DPWH, DILG, and LGUs to ensure delivery of needed service to victims, which is within their mandates;
- ↓ To engage DILG, LGUs, and community associations under items c (*Stronger Measures to Ensure the Safety and Security of the Affected Children*), d (*Timely Delivery of Health and Medical Services*), f (*Establishment of Emergency Center*) for a more comprehensive, responsive, and coordinative efforts on the protection of children.

2. On Sec. 5 - Unaccompanied or Separated Children

To include a sentence which will be read: "*The children shall be lodged in a licensed or accredited residential or community-based centers if the families or relatives of the children cannot be found within a week, for proper care and protection. A child development worker or registered social worker shall provide the needed case management and intervention.*"

3. On Sec. 7 – Heightened Surveillance Against Child Trafficking, Child Labor, Child Prostitution and Violence on Children

- ↳ To install mechanisms in the community that can help protect and prevent any forms of child abuse.
  - ↳ To include and strengthen the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC), local inter-agency council against trafficking, and watch groups in the community to prevent child abuse.
4. On Sec. 6 – Data Gathering and Reporting
- To establish a database system in every city/municipality/province to track all children affected by disasters and calamities. This could also monitor the number of death, abused, and orphaned children.
5. On Sec. 9 – Training of First Responders
- To include trainings for community members and children to equip them with right information before any disaster or emergency strikes that could help mitigate risks.
6. Further, to include Section for Budget to institutionalize the Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children.

For consideration of the Committee.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



**ANGELITA M. GREGORIO-MEDEL**  
Officer-in-Charge