

22 February 2018

REPRESENTATIVE ANGELINA TAN

Chairperson
Committee on Health
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Dear **Representative Tan**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development submits its comments on House Bill Nos. 3310, 4630 and 5810 which seek to establish telehealth centers in every hospital and institutionalize an electronic health system in the country.

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

1. Consolidate the bills into one.
2. Under **HBN 3310 and 5810**: Include the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to assist the Department of Health (DOH) as the lead agency in the implementation of the proposed bill. This is to ensure the protection of electronic medical records to be transmitted and stored under the Telehealth Center.
3. Under **HBN 4630**: Include Medical Transcriptionist as they play a vital role in the process of transcription, or converting voice-recorded reports as dictated by physicians or other healthcare professionals, into text format. This could be the first step in data banking.
4. General Comments:
 - a. Further study is needed to analyze the utilization, cost and benefit and implementation of existing information system used by other countries.
 - b. The bills should take into consideration the status and access to information and telecommunications of those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA).
 - c. Telemedicine service delivery should be differentiated from other health services that are emergency based and those requiring continuous medication.

Very truly yours,



EMMANUEL A. LEYCO

Undersecretary and Officer-in-Charge