



15 February 2018

**SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**  
 Chairperson  
 Committee on Youth  
 Senate of the Philippines  
 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Dear **Chairperson Villanueva:**

The **Department of Social Welfare and Development supports Senate Bill No. 1149** entitled: An Act Creating the Youth Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program and Prevention and Providing Funds Therefor or the "**Youth Drug Abuse Resistance Education and Prevention Program (Y-DARE) Act of 2016**", introduced by the Chairperson.

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

1. **Sec. 1 — Short Title**

To delete "of 2016"

2. **Sec. 2 — Purpose**

To revise the provision which will be read as follows:

*"This Act is enacted for the purpose of providing the youth with appropriate **knowledge, attitude, and skills** to avoid opportunities of drug abuse by helping establish positive relationships between and among students and law enforcement agencies, teachers, parents and community leaders."*

3. **Sec. 3 — Implementation**

3.1 The implementation of the Y-DARE and Prevention Program should not be limited to the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED). May we recommend **the involvement of other agencies such as the DSWD, Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC), and National Youth Commission (NYC)** which engage the most vulnerable sectors and work with at-risk children and youth.

3.2 To revise the function of the Department of Health (DOH) which will be read as follows:

- ✦ On **letter (b)**, do close coordination with the **Dangerous Drugs Board (DBB)** in the formulation and development of policy and legislative proposals and in the overall administration of policies and regulations related to drug prevention.
- ✦ On **letter (c)**, **lead and convene** the inter-agency committees, groups and partnerships related to drug prevention, coordinate with other government agencies on issues related to comprehensive school health, and advise the Secretary of the **Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED)** on the formulation of comprehensive school health education policy; and

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- ↓ On **letter (d)**, lead other government agencies **in close coordination with the DDB** in the development of a national research agenda for drug prevention.

3.3 To revise the functions of DepEd and CHED which will be read as follows:

- ↓ On letter (d), build effective channels of communication between the school, **parents, community leaders and partner offices and agencies** to ensure that the educational and/or intervention programs are adequately carried out in and out of school.

4. **Sec. 4 — Implementing Rules and Regulations**

To include the CHED, DSWD, CWC, JJWC, and TESDA in the formulation of the IRR.

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5. ~~Further, may we recommend to the Committee to **invite concerned Local Government Units (LGUs)** which are known for their successful implementation of the **Special Drug Education Center (SDEC)** which has been institutionalized under **Republic Act No. 9165** or the "**Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002**" in the deliberation/s of this legislative measure.~~

**The SDEC focuses on drug abuse prevention education at the community level, with at-risk children and youth as priority beneficiaries for this program.**

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



**EMMANUEL A. LEYCO**  
Officer-in-Charge