



02 June 2017

SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

Chairperson
Committee on Health and Demography
Senate of the Philippines
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Dear **Chairperson Ejercito**:

The **Department of Social Welfare and Development supports Senate Bill No. 1482** entitled: An Act Providing for a National Policy in Preventing Teenage Pregnancies, Institutionalizing Social Protection for Teenage Parents, and Providing Funds Therefor or the “**Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy Act of 2017**”, introduced by Senator Ana Theresia “Risa” Hontiveros-Baraquel.

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

1. **Section 4 – Development of National Program of Action and Investment Plan for the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy**

To include the **Commission on Higher Education (CHED)** in the development of evidence-based medium term National Program of Action and Investment Plan for the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy.

2. **Section 5 – Organization and Mobilization of Regional and Local information and Service Delivery Network for Adolescent Health and Development (ISDN for AHD)**

Instead of mapping and analyzing the various factors contributing to adolescent pregnancy, ISDN for AHD may already make use of the results of national surveys such as the National Demographic and Health Survey and the Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey. The local ISDN can also include the existing children and youth structure at the local level.

3. **Section 7 – Training of Teachers, Guidance Counselors, and School Supervisors on CSE**

To include **public health worker engaged in the delivery of health care services** e.g., doctors, nurses, midwives, and barangay health workers in the training on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) to effectively assist or guide adolescents in dealing with their sexuality-related concerns.

4. **Section 8 – CSE for Out-of-School Adolescents and those with Special Concerns**

To include the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) through the Local Government Units (LGUs) to intensify and institutionalize interactive learning methodologies for CSE among out-of-school adolescents in the communities and workplaces.

5. **Section 11 – Access to Reproductive Health Services**

The bill may already remedy some of the gaps/lapses in the **Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law** especially those related to access of minors to reproductive health services.

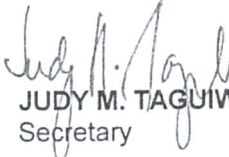
6. **Section 12 – Social Protection for Teenage Mothers or Parents**

The interventions should not only be limited to female adolescents but should also cover their partners, families & communities as support systems.

For consideration of the Committee.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
Secretary