

27 February 2018

**SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

Chairperson  
Committee on Youth  
Senate of the Philippines  
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Dear **Chairperson Villanueva**:

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The **Department of Social Welfare and Development supports Senate Bill No. 992** entitled: An Act Establishing a Human Trafficking Prevention Education Program for the Youth and Appropriating Funds Therefor or the "**Human Trafficking Preventive Education Program Act**", introduced by Senator Sherwin Gatchalian.

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

**1. Sec. 3 – Preventive Education Program**

1.1 On the first paragraph, to revise the provision which will be read as follows:

***"The Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) through its Advocacy and Communications Committee (ADVOCOM) shall facilitate the establishment of a Human Trafficking Preventive Education Program xxx"***

The **IACAT-ADVOCOM**, created pursuant to Republic Act No. 9208 as amended by Republic Act No. 10364 or the "**Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012**", was tasked to coordinate the conduct of massive information dissemination and campaign on the existence of the law and the various issues and problems on human trafficking.

Also, the **ADVOCOM** shall be primarily responsible for the development and implementation of the **IACAT's** communication program as well as the conduct of research and study regarding patterns and schemes of trafficking in persons for policy formulation and program direction.

1.2 On the objectives, to include the factors that might lure and victimize children and youth towards human trafficking and child pornography.

**2. Sec. 4 – School-Based Program**

2.1 To incorporate the **CyberSafe Project Manuals** for Grades 5 to 6 pupils and Junior High School students which were developed by Stairway Foundation, Inc. an NGO member of the Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography (IACACP) in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd). Accordingly, public school teachers can access the CyberSafe portal and download online modules/lesson plans to implement in the classrooms and to teach students about online safety.

2.2 To identify a Child Protection Specialist in each school to intensify the prevention of human trafficking among children and youth.

3. **Sec. 5 – Community-Based Program**

Instead of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) should lead the implementation of the Community-Based Program in consideration of the latter's direct supervision over the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC).

4. **Sec. 7 – Accountability Measures**

To revise the provision which will be read as follows:

*“The Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Education (DepEd), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall submit semestral progress reports on the implementation and outcomes of the school-based or community-based programs on human trafficking to the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) xxx.”*

5. **Sec. 10 – Implementing Rules and Regulations**

The IACAT is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice (DOJ) thus, the latter shall oversee the implementation of this Act, in coordination and consultation with relevant government agencies such as the Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Council for the Welfare of Children, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) or Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) with programs and services for children and youth who are victims-survivors of Human Trafficking.

6. **Other Comment**

To include children as beneficiary of this bill because they are also vulnerable to human trafficking and pornography.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



EMMANUEL A. LEYCO  
Officer-in-Charge