



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

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

Dear **Senator Hontiveros**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development **supports Senate Bill Nos. 23: School Feeding Purchased from Poor Farmers Program** (Sen. Honasan), **123: National School Meal Program Act of 2016** (Sen. Zubiri), **160: Libreng Pananghalian sa Pampublikong Paaralan Act of 2016** (Sen. Poe), and **694: Pagkaing Pinoy Para sa Batang Pinoy Act** (Sen. Aquino IV), which cater to the nutritional needs of our school children.

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

1. To consolidate the bills into one.
2. To adapt Sec. 3 (Definition of Terms) of SBN 123 in the consolidation of bills.
3. **Sec. 4 – Child Nutrition Network under SBN 160**

We recommend to maximize the role of the National Nutrition Council (NNC) as the highest policy-making and coordinating body on nutrition rather than creating a new structure with very similar functions.

Further, the Early Childhood Care and Development Council (ECCDC) may be tapped in the institutionalization of the Nutritional-Meal Program.

4. **Sec. 8 – Role of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) vis-à-vis Sec. 7 – Role of the Department of Education (DepEd) under SBN 160**

The Department of Education (DepEd) is the appropriate agency to lead the pilot testing of the feeding program in public elementary and high schools that are located in communities covered by the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program. The DSWD shall provide the necessary support in the identification of these communities.

5. **Sec. 9 – Role of the Department of Agriculture (DA) under SBN 160**

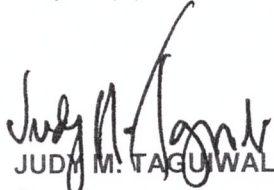
- ↓ The role of the Department of Agriculture (DA) should include exploring strategies to ensure sufficient produce for the targeted children of the program and local communities other than identifying and accrediting farmers, farmer's organizations, and cooperatives to supply the goods.

6. To include the responsibility of the **Local Government Units (LGUs)** particularly in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the feeding program.

Further, the proposed bill should provide for specific targets and period for pilot testing to enable the assessment of its effectiveness.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUWALO
Secretary