



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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HONORABLE MARIA LOURDES BINAY

Chairperson
Committee on Social Justice, Welfare
And Rural Development
Senate
Pasay City

Dear Senator Binay:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development fully supports the passage into law of Senate Bill No. 565, entitled: "An Act Regulating Homes for the Elderly," introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago.

We would like to inform the Committee that the DSWD is mandated to regulate government and NGO-run residential facilities. We are referring to those NGOs which are non-stock, non-profits organizations, duly registered, licensed and accredited by the Department to manage residential facilities including those that provide care for the senior citizens.

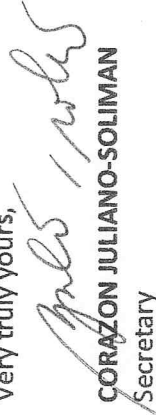
However, the Department has no regulation power over privately-owned and profit-oriented residential facilities. We believe that they should be regulated by the government. Hence, the proposed measure mandating the Department to regulate the programs and services of the privately-run and profit-oriented homes for the elderly is a welcome legislation. Our recommendations for consideration of the Committee are as follows:

1. The regulation of these centers for senior citizens shall be in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH) given that the services of these homes include geriatric healthcare services.
2. To provide a mechanism or procedure in the regulation of these centers/homes. Such mechanism will also assist in the prevention of elderly abuse in said center/homes.
3. For consistency with RA 9994, senior citizen or elderly shall refer to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years old.

We believe its enactment into law will ensure quality service to the senior citizens in the Homes providing care.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


CORAZON JULIANO-SOLIMAN
Secretary