

**HONORABLE ROBINHOOD C. PADILLA**  
Chairperson  
Committee on Public Information and Mass Media  
Senate of the Philippines  
Pasay City

Attn: **BERNADINE B. MAHINAY**  
**Committee Secretary**

Dear **SENATOR PADILLA**,

This refers to your request for comments on the following measures pertaining to Media Regulation, namely:

Senate Bill No.	Title	Author
Senate Bill No. 734	"AN ACT DETERRING THE CONTINUED PROLIFERATION OF IMMORAL DOCTRINES, OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS AND INDECENT SHOWS BY INCREASING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"	Senator Joel Villanueva
Senate Bill No. 850	"AN ACT LIMITING THE EXPOSURE OF CHILDREN TO VIOLENT PROGRAMMING ON TELEVISION AND CABLE SYSTEMS OR CHILDREN'S MEDIA PROTECTION OF ACT OF 2022"	Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.
Senate Bill No. 1502	"AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF WORDS THAT WOULD DENOTE RELIGIOUS, REGIONAL OR ETHICAL AFFILIATION IN PRINT, RADIO, TELEVISION INCLUDING CABLE TELEVISION AND OTHER FORMS OF BROADCAST MEDIA TO REFER TO OR DESCRIBE ANY PERSON SUSPECTED OR CONVICTED OF A CRIME OR UNLAWFUL ACT AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR"	Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

At the outset, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) supports measures that promote the welfare of children such as regulating the exposure to violence shown in television that has adverse effects in the development of the child as well as protecting them from various forms of abuse and exploitation, including those perpetrated online.

It is on this premise that we submit, for the Committee's consideration, the following inputs and recommendations:

**1. On Senate Bill No. 734**

As the Chair of the Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography (IACACP) and as a member agency of the National Coordination Center Against Online Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Material, created under Republic Act No. (RA) 11930 or the *"Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children*

(OSAEC) and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM) Act”, the DSWD is strongly committed in combating online sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

We support the increase in penalties prescribed under the Revised Penal Code for immoral doctrines, obscene publications and exhibitions, and indecent shows for it to be commensurate with the gravity of the offense committed, as well as adding the provision with regard to the sale, distribution, or transfer of immoral, obscene and/or pornographic materials to minors. We agree with the proponent that the present penalty is already insignificant compared to the revenue generated by the porn industry and how pornographic materials have proliferated due to advances in technology. We also support the inclusion of the fine under Section 9 of Republic Act No. 7610 and the increase in penalty to those who would subject minors in any obscene publication or pornographic material as well as its distribution and/or sale.

It is recommended, however, that the amendments under SBN 734 be reconciled with R.A. No. 11930 as it also enumerated unlawful or prohibited acts similar to those that have been inserted in the RPC and R.A. No. 7610.

## 2. On Senate Bill Nos. 850 and 1502

We concur with limiting the exposure of children to violent programming on television and cable systems. The DSWD, through its attached agency, the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), fully supports the regulation of inappropriate television programs and the production and promotion of child-friendly and appropriate content that will help develop the knowledge, skills, values, and a strong sense of national identity among Filipino children. We likewise support the censorship of any form of discrimination on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, sex or gender or sexual orientation.

The DSWD, in coordination with various government agencies and non-government entities, remains committed to protecting and upholding the rights of children by continuously establishing stronger and more unified platforms to address gaps in policies and programs necessary in creating a safe and friendly environment for them.

For the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



**REX GATCHALIAN**

Secretary

Date: 27 JUL 2023