



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

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23 August 2013

Undersecretary MICHAEL G. AGUINALDO

Deputy Executive Secretary for Legal Affairs

Office of the President

Malacañang, Manila

Dear Undersecretary Aguinaldo:

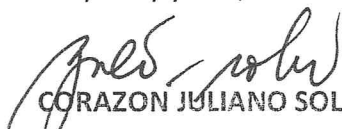
The Department of Social Welfare and Development supports the enactment into law of the enrolled bill entitled, "An Act Requiring All Elementary and Secondary Schools to Adopt Policies to Prevent and Address the Acts of Bullying in Their Institutions". We believe in the intention of the said bill to support children's right to education by providing a supportive environment that is safe and free from violence.

We are also in the hope that once enacted into law, the Department of Education (DepEd) as lead agency responsible for the formulation of the necessary rules and regulations would consider the following inputs:

- a. Revisit the term "bully" or "perpetrator" as these labels fail to recognize that children engage in bullying are also caught in problematic situations which tend to contribute to their behaviour.
- b. May we suggest that the school principal or designee specifically work with the Law Enforcement Agencies' Women and Children Protection Units (WCPUs) in reporting instances of bullying beyond the scope of disciplinary administrative actions.
- c. The DepEd may also consider putting up School Safety Committees in partnership with the Parents - Teachers Associations (PTAs) to implement and monitor the anti-bullying policies.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


CORAZON JULIANO SOLIMAN
Secretary