

**Honorable WIN GATCHALIAN**  
Chairperson  
Committee on Basic Education,  
Arts and Culture  
Senate of the Philippines  
Pasay City

Dear **Senator Gatchalian**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) **supports Senate Bill No. 740** entitled: "An Act Institutionalizing the Alternative Learning System in Basic Education for Out-Of-School Children, Youth, Adults, Persons with Disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, and Other Marginalized Sectors of Society and Appropriating Funds There" or the "**Alternative Learning System Act**", introduced by the Honorable Senator.

The proposed bill aims to institutionalize the Alternative Learning System to expand access to basic education for marginalized sectors of society.

To contribute to the bill's enhancement, DSWD is recommending the following:

1. On **Sec. 2 – Declaration of Policy**: Revise the second paragraph to read as:

*"Towards this end, the State shall endeavour to expand access to basic education by providing the marginalized sectors of society particularly the adult citizens, out of school **CHILDREN AND youth, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND OTHER MARGINALIZED SECTORS INCLUDING THOSE LIVING IN GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED AND DISADVANTAGED AREAS (GIDAs)** with opportunities to improve..."*

2. On **Sec. 3 – Objectives**

- 2.1. Revise letter (b) to read as:

*"To provide the opportunity of a flexible, **CONTEXT-BASED AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY MODE** education program outside of the formal basic education system..."*

- 2.2. Revise letter (c) to read as:


*"To provide accessible training and education services in every barangay, including those unreached, underserved, and conflict-affected **AND HIGH-RISK areas AND communities**;"*

3. On **Sec. 4 – The Alternative Learning System**: This section should explicitly state that the ALS Program and its facilities must be made accessible to all the target groups especially to the persons with disabilities to enhance their mobility in compliance with Batas Pambansa Bilang 344 or the Accessibility Law.
4. On **Sec. 6 – Implementation of the Program**: To change "gender-sensitive" to "gender-responsive" to ensure affirmative actions should be taken by the State.

5. On **Sec. 7 – ALS Teacher and Facilitator Training and Education:** To include representatives from the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC) to ensure continued professionalization of ALS teachers as expert service providers.
6. On **Sec. 9 – Creation of New ALS Positions**
  - 6.1. To require each barangay to have at least one (1) regular mobile teacher position for ALS under the supervision of the Department of Education (DepEd) school district.
  - 6.2. To include in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) the qualification of teachers.
7. On **Sec. 10 – Mandatory Review and Impact Assessment:** Revise to read as:  
  
*“The DepEd shall conduct a mandatory review of the ALS program **ON THE END OF EVERY SCHOOL YEAR** to measure its...”*
8. General Comments:
  - 8.1. The bill should clarify whether the ALS program would function within a single school or be a program affiliated with one or more schools or school district. We recommend that such program must be affiliated with at least one school that has a school code assigned by DepEd.
  - 8.2. An adequate number of qualified and competent teachers and coordinators should be available to ensure proper implementation of the proposed bill. Resources should also be given to barangay level with proper monitoring to provide quality service.
  - 8.3. DepEd may consider tapping teachers in private schools as coordinators. The Department may also collaborate with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and PRC to promote and offer-out-of-the-country board review and PRC exam for interested Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW).

For the Committee's consideration.

Very truly yours,

  
**ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA**  
Secretary  
Date: JANUARY 16, 2020