

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development

IBP Road, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City 1126
Telephone Nos. (632) 931-8101 to 07; Telefax (632) 931-8191

E-mail: oseec@dswd.gov.ph
Website: <http://www.dswd.gov.ph>

14 October 2014

HON. PIA S. CAYETANO

Chairperson Designate
Committee on Health and Demography
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

Dear **Senator Cayetano**,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development asserts our full support on the following Senate Bills:

1. SBN 148 – “The Revised Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy Program Act of 2013” introduced by Sen. Pia S. Cayetano
2. SBN 186 – “The Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy and Plan Act” introduced by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago
3. SBN 879 – “Women and Children’s HIV Protection Act of 2013” introduced by Sen. Jinggoy Ejercito-Estrada
4. SBN 1100 – “Revised Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy and Program Act of 2013” introduced by Sen. JV Ejercito
5. SBN 1178 – “Revised Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy Program Act of 2013” introduced by Sen. Antonio Trillanes
6. SBN 1217 – “National Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support Policy and Plan Act” introduced by Sen. Grace Poe

However, please consider our suggestions for the enhancement of the proposed legislative measures.

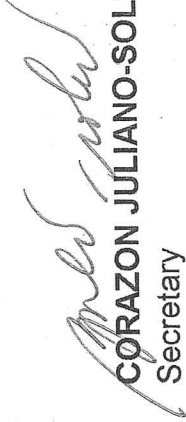
1. On Senate Bill No. 148 under section 8, paragraph d, include a provision wherein the State shall ensure access to routine HIV screening as part of the clinical care in all health care institutions, provided, that the patient is provided with the opportunity to inquire questions on the nature of the test and has an option to decline HIV testing. Furthermore, the testing facilities must ensure that the provider-patient relationship is conducive to optimal care.
2. On Senate Bill No. 148 under section 8, paragraph d, include the power of the Department of Health to conduct contact tracing through partner notification

with an end goal of providing partner services such as, but not limited to, access to quick testing and linkage to care for treatment and other services.

3. On Senate Bill No. 148 under section 5 which enumerates the functions of the PNAC, the civil society organizations must be accredited for the purpose of credibility, transparency and accountability.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



CORAZON JULIANO-SOLIMAN
Secretary