

10 October 2016

SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

Chairperson

Committee on Health and Demography

Senate of the Philippines

Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Dear **Senator Hontiveros**:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development fully supports Senate Bill Nos. 136, 161 and 1133: **First 1,000 Days Act**, introduced by Senators Sonny Angara, Grace Poe, and JV Ejercito, respectively; Senate Bill No. 831: **Children's Health and Nutrition Program Act of 2016**, introduced by Senator Ralph Recto; Senate Bill No. 1114: **The Malnutrition-Free Act of 2016**, introduced by Senator Cynthia Villar; and Senate Bill No. 1145: **The Healthy Bulilit Act**, introduced by the Chairperson, which seek to institutionalize a maternal and health care program for women and children.

To contribute to the bills' enhancement, we are recommending the following:

1. Consolidate the bills into one.
2. To look into the following strategies/plans as further references:
 - 2.1 The **Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (PAHP)** being implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and DSWD in responding to the need of the Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) for indigents/locally produced food products for a more sustainable approach in achieving food security and food safety as key factors for child nutrition.

PAPH is a mechanism wherein Sustainable Livelihood Program Association (SLPAs), DAR's Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Organizations (ARBOs) and small holder farmer organizations of the Department of Agriculture (DA), grow food and supply the requirements of SFP in Childhood Development Centers (CDCs) in select poor rural communities.
 - 2.2 The **Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement** may also be cited and used as reference in the drafting of these bills as it shares the same target to eradicate malnutrition in children aged 0-5 years old; and
 - 2.3 **National Plan of Action for Children and Indicators of the Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance** where details of interventions for 0-2 years old children are also included.

3. On the **Declaration of Policy**

Include **male responsibility/involvement, community support, existing social structures, and organized activities** as crucial factors in addressing malnutrition.

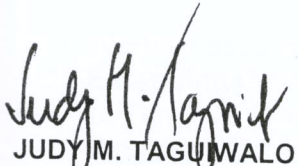
4. To specify the **roles and functions of concerned National Government Agencies (NGAs), Non-Government Organizations**, and other stakeholders in the institutionalization and implementation of Maternal and Child Health Care and Nutrition.

5. To consider the **membership of the DAR** under the National Nutrition Council (NNC). Also, the **Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council** since it is in-charge of programs for the zero to four (4) year old children.

May we also inform Chairperson Hontiveros that the Pantawid Pamilya has **10,706 pregnant members** aged 31-40 years old. This is in response to the inquiry of Senator Nancy Binay during the Public Hearing of the aforementioned bills on 26 September 2016.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


JUDY M. TAGUWALO
Secretary