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March 6, 2015

The Honorable Feliciano R. Belmonte Jr.
Speaker
The House of Representatives
Constitution Hills Quezon City 1126

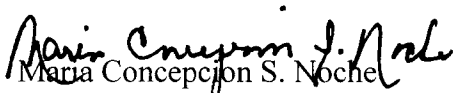
Dear Mr. Speaker:

Re: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Bill

It is most imprudent to make a fundamental change to the organization of society suddenly and without debate. The effects of this change will play out over decades, and even generations. How much thought has been given to this? Throughout history, at least in more developed cultures, marriage has been understood to be the basis of society. Now it is planned to change the nature of marriage without any thought as to what effects this will have on our people and nation over the next century. It is at least remotely possible that it will result in a threat to their actual existence, because it makes a definitive statement in law and policy that sexual activity is not oriented fundamentally to producing the next generation of humans, but to personal fulfillment. Once generally accepted by everyone, this changed understanding may well have profound effects. Children could, and it is reasonable to believe that they are likely to, become much less valued, both in thought and in fact. We base our decisions and our actions on our beliefs. When those beliefs change, thoughts and actions change, too. History is clear on this. If children are not valued as much as before, there will be fewer of them. Already several of the countries of Europe, among them Germany, Italy and Ukraine, have so few children that their future existence is in doubt, as some of their own officials have pointed out. There is no reason why this cannot or will not happen here, especially if we begin to model our social beliefs on theirs. This doesn't even consider the effects this change will have on how children are brought up, and even how well their needs are provided for.

It is absolutely necessary that the SOGI bill be the subject of serious national discussion and debate before passage. Once the potential consequences are understood and acceptable to the majority of our people, that will be the time to move for passage. Any other course will be a fundamental, and potentially catastrophic, disservice to our people.

Yours sincerely,


Maria Concepcion S. Noche
President