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The Honorable Rep. Ian Paul L. Dy

Chairperson, Committee on Population & Family Relations
3/F RVM Building
House of Representatives
Constitution Hills, Quezon City 1126

Subject: House Bill Nos. 1015 & 6782

Dear Representative Dy:

We understand that your Committee will be conducting a hearing to consider House Bill No. 1015 entitled, “An Act Recognizing the Civil Partnership of Couples, Providing for their Rights and Obligations” and House Bill No. 6782 entitled, “An Act Recognizing the Civil Partnership of Couples, Providing for their Rights and Obligations”.

We are attaching our Position Paper, in opposition to this bill.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our views.

Very truly yours,

MARIA CONCEPCION S. NOCHE
President



POSITION PAPER on HB 1015 & 6782 (Civil Partnership Bills)

Sexual complementarity and fruitfulness belong to the very nature of marriage. Given the values at stake in this issue, the State could not grant legal standing to a homosexual union without failing in its duty to promote and defend marriage as an institution essential to the common good. Marriage is not a private, emotional affair, it is impressed with public interest and essential to the common good.

The inevitable consequence of legal recognition of homosexual unions would be the **redefinition of marriage**. A civil union, in its legal status, becomes an institution devoid of essential reference to factors linked to heterosexuality; for example, procreation and raising children. By putting homosexual unions on a legal plane analogous to that of marriage and the family, the State acts arbitrarily and in contradiction with its solemn duty to preserve and promote the family as a basic social institution.

Nor is it a valid argument that legal recognition of homosexual unions is necessary to avoid situations in which cohabiting homosexual persons, simply because they live together, might be deprived of real recognition of their rights as persons and citizens. In reality, they can always make use of the provisions of existing laws – like all citizens – to protect their rights in matters of common interest. It would be gravely unjust to sacrifice the common good and the laws on the family just so to protect personal goods of certain individuals or groups that can be guaranteed in ways that do not harm the rest of society.

The relationship between two unmarried people with regard to property matters can be amply protected without having to defile the institution of marriage. If two people, whether of the same or opposite sex, would like to adopt the same property relations outlined for married couples, they are free to enter into such a contract. No law for civil partnership is needed. In the absence of any contract or agreement, the rules on co-ownership in the Philippine Civil Code shall apply.

There is no doubt, the Civil Partnership bills are a slippery slope to same-sex marriage.