



Philippine Chamber of
Commerce and Industry



EMPLOYERS
CONFEDERATION
OF THE
PHILIPPINES

24 August 2020

HON. ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

House Speaker
House of Representatives
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

Attn: Ms. Ma. Victoria Castillon

Committee Secretary
New Normal Subcommittee
Defeat COVID-19 Ad Hoc Committee

Dear Speaker Cayetano:

Allow us to present our joint position regarding House Bill no. 6623 otherwise known as "An act establishing policies and regulations for the new normal for the workplace and public spaces and instituting penalties for violations thereof".

First and foremost, we reiterate our support to the spirit and intention of House Bill No. 6233 as it seeks to institutionalize and prepare the Filipino public to adapt to the new norms of life after the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. **It is our collective position however that there are other important matters that should be taken into account before the passage of the said bill.**

It should be noted that, to date, there are already existing guidelines issued through various government agencies and different avenues such as through executive orders, department orders, labor advisories, and joint department guidelines, among others.

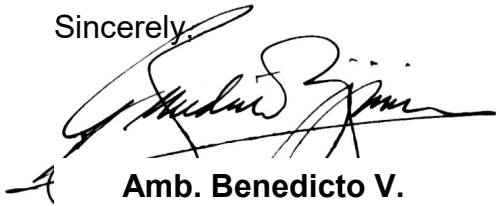
Given that there remain a lot of uncertainties surrounding COVID-19, we believe that there should be enough room for flexibility and adjustment in case new discoveries are made about the disease which shall lead to further improving and amending existing government policies and/or guidelines.

As such, we believe that the passage of the bill into law shall only limit government acts rather than being able to address the issue at hand freely and legally. Once a bill is enacted into law, it will be very difficult, if not impossible, for government agencies to address issues that are beyond the ambit of the provisions of law.

Unless we are satisfied that the bill is able to address all existing and future issues of COVID-19, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), and the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc (PHILEXPORT), collectively is not inclined to fully support the said bill.

Thank you for the attention and support.

Sincerely,



**Amb. Benedicto V.
Yujuico**
President
Philippine Chamber of
Commerce and Industry



Edgardo G. Lacson
Chairman
Employers Confederation
of the Philippines



Dr. Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr.
President
Philippine Exporters
Confederation, Inc.

*cc: Honorable Silvestre H. Bello III
Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment*