



Ligaya ng Panginoon Foundation, Inc.  
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## **STANDING FAST AND FIRM**

(Our position on the various issues surrounding the debate on the reproductive health bill)

In the Gospel according to John, Jesus calls us to be **in the world...but not of the world** (John 17:11,16) even as He sends us into the world in the same way that the Father sent Him (John 17:18). We are sent into the world in the same way that Jesus was sent by the Father—to be “children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life” (Phil. 2:15).

The ongoing debates, in and out of Congress, on the reproductive health bill (particularly H.B. No. 4244) have led us to reflect on our call as a community of disciples on mission in this particular aspect of our life in the world.

There has been so much noise and confusion because of the many discussions and debates on the RH issue that it is tempting for us to simply shun the issue and shut out the noise. Yet, we are reminded that our call to be in the world but not of the world is precisely to take part actively in bringing light in this darkness, silencing the noise and dispelling the confusion and chaos by standing fast and firm to the truth that comes from God’s Word.

After much study, reflection, discernment and prayer, we join the Church and our Bishops in their firm opposition to the passage of the Reproductive Health bill currently pending in Congress for the following reasons:

**1. The RH bill espouses a contraceptive culture that is destructive of life and the inherent dignity of each person.**

Stripped to its essentials, the RH bill advocates reproductive health and sexuality information and education to be coursed through the country’s education system. A major, if not primary, aspect of this advocacy is the fostering of a contraceptive culture, i.e., an advocacy towards use of contraceptives and other substances that would allow for sexual intercourse without the end of procreation.

In *Humane Vitae*, Pope Paul VI expressly declared as unlawful “birth control methods” which include “(a)ny action which either before, or at the moment of, or after sexual intercourse, is specifically intended to prevent procreation—whether as an end or as a means.”

While the RH bill does not expressly allow for abortion, it nonetheless leads to a weakening of the regard that our faith holds for the value of life because it encourages and affirms actions that would directly allow for the use of sexual intercourse for a purpose that is not procreative.

**2. The RH bill weakens the family as a foundation of the nation and removes from parents their right, responsibility and role to found their family in accordance with their faith.**

Under the Constitution, the family is the foundation of the nation and parents have the primary right, role and responsibility to **“found a family in accordance with their religious convictions and the demands of responsible parenthood.”** (Art. XV, Sec. 3(1))

By proposing the dissemination of reproductive health education and information, through mandatory age-appropriate **and secular** reproductive health and sexuality education, the RH bill removes from parents the right, role and responsibility to found a family on faith. The provision on ideal family size, while not mandatory, is dangerous because it affects directly the exercise of faith in the foundation of families.

**3. The provisions that penalize non-compliance with the provisions of the proposed law are coercive and go against the free and conscientious choice that the bill supposedly seeks to protect.**

The RH bill seeks to penalize non-compliance with the provisions on RH education and information. This is coercive and goes against the free exercise of faith that is protected by the Constitution as well as the free and conscientious choice that the bill supposedly seeks to put forward and protect.

While we recognize that not all the portions of the bill are wrong, there is enough in it that is wrong and in violation of our faith. To use Bishop Ted Bacani’s analogy, we cannot eat our favorite cake, delicious as it may be, once some poison has been added or injected into it. For this reason, we stand firm and fast and join our voices to those who oppose the RH bill.

We ask our brothers and sisters to be informed and take part. Pray, meditate and reflect on our call to be disciples on mission by coming face to face with the realities that confront us, our community, our country and our Church. Read the bill that is pending, take part in the discussions, stand up for the Church and its leaders, oppose the RH bill and defend the faith. But, in all these things, “put on love, which binds everything together” (Col. 3:14).

Yours in Christ,

**The Council of Coordinators  
Ang Ligaya ng Panginoon Community  
September, 2011**