

## **FOR RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD**

On October 21, 2010, we, the undersigned business organizations, issued the following public statement:

“We strongly believe government must encourage responsible parenthood and promote family planning as a direct strategy for poverty reduction and maternal and child healthcare. The active role envisioned for government in the promotion of family planning is in keeping with the expressed desire of a significant majority of Filipinos as manifested in major national surveys.

“While various parties and interested sectors may provide advice and guidance to parents on alternative choices regarding family size and the means to achieve their desired objective, we believe these are decisions ultimately for the parents themselves to make.

“We believe such a focused policy of family planning must provide lowest-cost access for the very poor to the services and materials to implement their free and informed choice.

“We would be unequivocally opposed to any measure that condones abortion in any way, limits free choice, and mandates the means to implement such choice.”

**Today, in pursuit of the above stated principles and objectives, we call on both houses of Congress to pass into law without further delay The Responsible Parenthood, Reproductive Health and Population and Development Act of 2011, as embodied in House Bill 4244 and Senate Bill 2865.**

**EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (ECOP)  
FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES (FINEX)  
MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB (MBC)  
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (MAP)  
PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (PCCI)**