

## **House Subcommittee on Labor Relations Approves BLR Recommendations**

As the number of freelance workers are expected to grow even higher, the House Subcommittee on Labor Relations discussed the bills seeking to protect freelance workers on 26 June 2020. The proposed measures include House Bill Nos. 1527, 2019, 3219, 3951, and 6132, otherwise known as “Providing Protection to Freelancers, Providing Penalties Therefore and for other purposes”.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, more workers are expected to turn to freelancers in the country. With this, we are confronted with an urgent need to protect this sector and empower them with ease of doing business. On the same note, Congressman Enrico Pineda considered this matter as a priority for the entertainment industry.

During the discussion, the following BLR recommendations were adopted to the consolidated Bill: a) to add, subject to style, to the definition of freelance worker the following: “who has contracted to do the work according to his/her own methods and without being subject to the control of the employer, except only as to the results of the work”; b) to indicate in the contract that before the engagement of the contractee, the contents of the contract should be explained to him/her, and that he/she has agreed to the contract without force, intimidation or fraud; c) to pay the compensation due the freelancer no later than fifteen (15) days after the completion of service; and d) to remove criminal penalty.

The Subcommittee on Labor Relations was chaired by Congressman Michael Edgar Aglipay, DIWA Partylist, together with Congressman Christopher De Venecia, 4<sup>th</sup> District of Pangasinan, as Co-Chair.

The consolidated bill will be forwarded to the mother committee for approval.

**END/Kim Margarete B. Martinez**