

3 Metro mayors vs child car seat law

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THREE mayors in Metro Manila are opposed to the implementation of the child car seat law because of the inconsistencies in its implementing rules and regulations, which they said could burden local government executives in the long term.

Valenzuela City Mayor Rex Gatchalian, Quezon City Mayor Josefina Belmonte and Navotas City Mayor Tobias Tiangco said in separate interviews that they would only approve the full implementation of Republic Act 11229, or the “Child Safety in Motor Vehicles Act,” if the government could come up with the proper guidelines.

Gatchalian and Belmonte called for a thorough review of the measure. They said the Land Transportation Office (LTO) should have taken into consideration the different body sizes of children.

LTO Director Clarence Guinto earlier apologized for saying that families with big children should use bigger cars. The law calls for the installation of child car seats in private vehicles for those aged 12 and below and those shorter than 4 feet and 11 inches.

Tiangco told The Manila Times that he would be lenient on those who would violate the car seat law.

“In Navotas, we would not arrest those who do not have car seats,” said Tiangco, a former lawmaker.

Belmonte said the public must be fully consulted in order to determine if it is feasible or not: “In Quezon City, we can enforce it to the best of our ability, but they must first come up with the proper guidelines as to how they would like us to implement this since it’s a national law and not a local ordinance.”