JOINT RESOLUTION URGING THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIONOUS DISEASES AND THE INTERIM NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP FOR COVID-19 VACCINES TO TRANSFER TEACHERS TO THE A4 PRIORITY GROUP FOR VACCINATION

WHEREAS, on 16 March 2020, the President issued Proclamation No. 929, s. 2020 declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines, which sought to afford the National Government and the Local Government Units (LGUs) ample latitude to utilize appropriate funds in their disaster preparedness and response efforts to contain COVID-19 and to continue to provide basic services to the affected population;

WHEREAS, on 16 September 2020, the President issued Proclamation No. 1021, s. 2020 to extend the period of the State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the current supply of vaccines for COVID-19 is limited and the government is presently in the process of procuring more doses of vaccines in order to accumulate a sufficient supply to achieve herd immunity;

WHEREAS, the Interim National Immunization Technical Advisory Group for COVID-19 Vaccines issued Resolution No. 1, s. 2021 that laid out the prioritization of population groups for vaccination, and according to the Presidential Spokesperson, the COVID-19 task force has approved the said resolution;¹

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health (DOH), the primary goal of the vaccine prioritization is to maintain critical essential services and reduce morbidity and mortality;

WHEREAS, under said prioritization, A1 priority group includes frontline workers in health facilities, A2 group includes senior citizens, A3 group includes persons with comorbidities, A4 group includes frontline personnel in essential sectors

¹ CNN Philippines, February 2021
including uniformed personnel and other essential sectors, and A5 group includes
the indigent population;

WHEREAS, in the order of prioritization, teachers have been assigned to the B1
group together with social workers;

WHEREAS, according to the DOH, inoculation of succeeding categories (i.e., B and
C) can only begin upon completion of their respective preceding categories and that
vaccination of subcategories (e.g. A2, A3) can only likewise begin upon completion
of their respective subcategories;

WHEREAS, mass inoculation has been ongoing in the country following the arrival
of doses of Sinovac and AstraZeneca vaccines, with 114,615 individuals vaccinated
against COVID-19 as of March 11, 2021;  

WHEREAS, during this time of pandemic, teachers perform frontline functions for
the education sector in the conduct of their professional responsibilities, such as
going to schools to access internet connectivity for synchronous classes, printing
and preparing modules for the students, and physically meeting students for
consultations and delivery of modules, among others;

WHEREAS, teachers are risking their health and safety in order to ensure
continuity in the delivery of education to Filipino learners because they necessarily
step outside their homes and interact with people for the performance of their
duties;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to vaccinate teachers in order to facilitate the
transition of the education sector into face-to-face or in person classroom learning
and to ensure the safe and sustainable continuity of education amidst and after the
COVID-19 pandemic;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, the House
of Representatives urge the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of
Emerging Infectious Diseases and the Interim National Immunization Technical
Advisory Group for COVID-19 Vaccines to move teachers from the B1 priority
group to the A4 priority group, due to the fact that they are frontline personnel in
the essential sector of education.

Adopted,

[Signature]

STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO

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2 Philippine Daily Inquirer, March 2021