Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Resolution No. 1005

Introduced by Rep. EVELINA G. ESCUDERO

RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR THE SUSPENSION OF CLASSES IN ALL LEVELS UNTIL THE EDUCATION SECTOR THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION IS FULLY READY TO IMPLEMENT REMOTE OR DISTANCE LEARNING OR UNTIL A CURE AGAINST COVID-19 HAS BEEN DEVELOPED AND MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.

WHEREAS, the outbreak of the highly contagious and deadly Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has compelled our government to resort to the drastic measure of enforcing various levels of community quarantine to contain its spread and stop it from wreaking havoc upon the populace. Consequently, schools all over the country were closed before the end of the academic year;

WHEREAS, as the country eases the quarantine restrictions, the infection rate continues to soar as the virus spreads to the provinces. As of 25 June 2020, there are 33,069 confirmed Covid-19 cases in the country;

WHEREAS, although the country is still grappling on how to contain the virus, the Department of Education (DepEd) has already issued an advisory (DepEd Order No. 007-2020), allowing the resumption of classes on 24 August 2020, wherein lessons will be delivered through the traditional face-to-face learning in classroom or through the other modalities of remote or distance learning- online, radio and television, and correspondence. Moreover, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) proposed the opening of classes in August to September, and allowing face-to-face interaction in as early as September;

WHEREAS, the current DepEd and CHED design is to deliver most of the lessons online. Yet, it is a known fact that that majority of our students simply do not have the resources in computer hardware or gadgets and internet connectivity to access the same. Even the teachers themselves have to travel distances or climb mountains just to catch the slightest cellular signal for them to be able to post their lessons;
WHEREAS, the proposed remote or distance learning design is laudable in its goal of mitigating the disruption caused by the disease in our education system, but there is an apparent disconnect in the present technical resources and infrastructure to adequately address the same. As noted by a World Bank 16 March 2020 document, “Remote Learning and COVID-19”, “[t]ransitioning to online learning at scale is a very difficult and highly complex undertaking for education systems, even in the best of circumstances;”

WHEREAS, unless, the fundamental issues of safety, teacher training, teacher and student access to hardware resources and digital connectivity are adequately addressed, we do great injustice to the Constitutional mandates for the State to “protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all;”

and to “[e]stablish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society;”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives call for the suspension of classes in all levels and effect legislative measures for the same until the education sector is fully ready to implement remote or distance learning or until a cure against COVID-19 has been developed and made publicly available.

Adopted.

2 Section 1 Article XIV, 1987 Philippine Constitution.
3 Section 2 (1) Article XIV, 1987 Philippine Constitution.