Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Batasan Hills, Quezon City  

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session  

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1523  

Introduced by  
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCISCO C. CASTRO,  
BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,  
Rep. FERDINAND GAITE and Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,  
GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,  
and KABATAAN Party-List Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO  

RESOLUTION  
DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
BASIC EDUCATION ON THE FUNDING, PERSONNEL, FACILITY, AND OTHER  
REQUIREMENTS OF THE BASIC EDUCATION UNDER K TO 12 PROGRAM IN LIGHT OF  
THE TERRIBLE RESULTS OF THE 2018 PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT  
ASSESSMENT (PISA) AND THE 2019 TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS  
AND SCIENCE STUDY (TIMSS)  

WHEREAS, Republic Act 10533 or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013  
mandated basic education to encompass one year of kindergarten education, six  
years of elementary education, and six years of secondary education, which includes  
four years of junior high school and two years of senior high school. The law also  
mandated other alterations to the basic education system, including policy changes  
and changes in the structure and curriculum, to name a few;  

WHEREAS, the Enhanced Basic Education Act worsened various issues including  
persisting shortages in schools and classrooms, particularly senior high schools; other  
learning facilities including computer and science laboratories and libraries; water  
and sanitation facilities; textbooks, learning modules and other instructional  
materials;
WHEREAS, the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is an international assessment coordinated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development that measures 15-year-old students' reading, mathematics, and science literacy every three years. It was first conducted in 2000, the major domain of study rotates between reading, mathematics, and science in each cycle;

WHEREAS, the results of the 2018 PISA showed that the Philippines is among the 79 countries which scored the lowest in reading comprehension and second lowest in Mathematics and Science. It was the first time for the Philippines to participate since its first assessment in 2000;

WHEREAS, the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) is a regular international comparative assessments of Mathematics and Science for Grade 4 and Grade 8 students in more than 60 countries, held every 4 years by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). TIMSS enable the participating countries to make evidence-based decisions for improving educational policy;

WHEREAS, the result of the 2019 TIMSS showed that Philippines fared worst among 58 countries and scored 297 in Math and 249 in Science for Grade 4. The Philippines did not participate in the assessment of Grade 8. The scores of the Philippines are very poor even for the lowest of the 4-level scale that the TIMSS uses: Advanced International Benchmark (625), High International Benchmark (550), Intermediate International Benchmark (475), and Low International Benchmark (400);

WHEREAS, the Philippines also participated in the 1999 and 2003 TIMSS, when it scored 345 both in Math and Science for Grade 8 and 378 in Math and 377 in Science for Grade 8, respectively. For 2007, 2011 and 2015 TIMSS, our country did not participate;

WHEREAS, the terrible results, taken after the full implementation of the Enhanced Basic Education Act, prove the failure of the K to 12 program to enhance the quality of basic education in our country. The K to 12 program worsened the existing problems in our education curriculum;

WHEREAS, the budget for education has been increasing every year without addressing the perennial problems of shortages in classrooms, learning materials, teachers, education support personnel, among others. Huge increases are allotted for programs like the Government Assistance for Students and Teachers in Private Education—the single biggest item under the DepEd budget every year—while the shortages are not decisively addressed. As result, these shortages are endured everyday by teachers, other school personnel, parents and students, with the responsibility to pay for whatever is lacking left mostly to teachers;
WHEREAS, the below-par performance of our education will continue if the government will not address the perennial problems and the welfare of our teachers being overworked and underpaid and the insufficiency of the education support personnel;

WHEREAS, Congress should thoroughly review and investigate the K to 12 program and the countless issues it worsened. Congress should hear directly from stakeholders—especially teachers, education support personnel, students and parents—the pervasive plaint on the ground: that the program does not serve the Filipino people as it has not enhanced the quality of education received by our youth;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the House of Representatives direct the Department of Education to report to the Committee on Basic Education on the funding, personnel, facility, and other requirements of the Basic Education under K to 12 program in light of the terrible results of the 2018 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and the 2019 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS).

Adopted,

Rep. FRANCIE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-List

Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
BAYAN MUNA Party-List

Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
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