A RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE TUITION AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, 2020 has been a very difficult year for the entire world because of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, in the Philippines, various lock downs where mandated resulting in a slowdown of the economy;

WHEREAS, due to the lockdown, families and individuals suffered income loss as "non-essential" establishments and public transportation were shut down;

WHEREAS, schools were also closed and face-to-face learning was halted and schools and students resorted to online teaching;

WHEREAS, despite this, there are still colleges and universities which applied for tuition increases;

WHEREAS, the application for tuition increase is very questionable because as a result of online schooling, the operational costs of colleges and universities have decreased;

WHEREAS, another question that should be answered is why are these colleges and universities still charging miscellaneous fees and other fees for library, medical and dental, computer, among others;

WHEREAS, CHED Chairperson Prospero De Vera stated that the problem now of most students and parents is they do not understand where would the fees go given the shift to flexible learning;
WHEREAS, these colleges and universities should be more considerate of the plight of our students and their families as many of them have suffered a decrease in income;

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Duterte earlier had already asked schools to accept installment-form tuition payment from students amid the coronavirus pandemic saying that, "Yung tuition ho sana, I hope that you'd allow staggered payment or installments lang po sa mga iskwelahan".

WHEREAS, allowing for payment on installment basis is not enough as these colleges and universities should stop charging fees that are not necessary.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives to direct the Committee on Higher and Technical Education to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation on the above issue and thus serve notice to all concerned, including the CHED and such other entities and corporations which may shed light and resolve the issue.

Adopted,

RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ