

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1721



Introduced by **KABATAAN PARTY-LIST Representative Sarah Jane I. Elago,**
ACT TEACHERS PARTY-LIST Representative France L. Castro,
BAYAN MUNA PARTY-LIST Representatives Carlos Isagani T. Zarate,
Ferdinand Gaité and Eufemia C. Cullamat,
and GABRIELA WOMEN'S PARTY Representative Arlene D. Brosas

RESOLUTION
STRONGLY URGING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT ACADEMIC EASING AND 'NO
FAIL' POLICY IN ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN LIGHT OF DISTANCE
LEARNING WOES AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND HISTORIC ECONOMIC
CRISIS

WHEREAS, the State must recognize the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being;

WHEREAS, the State shall 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;

WHEREAS, educational institutions and their stakeholders were forced to shift to distance learning modes because of the uncontrolled entry and spread of Covid-19 in the country and the deficiencies in testing, contact tracing and vaccination;

WHEREAS, with the lack of a clear plan geared towards the gradual safe resumption of face-to-face classes in school campuses, students and teachers have not been conducting classes in school campuses for more than a year and have had to deal with the struggles posed by the distance learning set-up;

WHEREAS, a year has passed in this remote learning set-up, yet the same woes continue to beset the education sector, such as poor internet connection and lack of gadgets, learning materials and other resources;

WHEREAS, this is aggravated by heavy and unreasonable academic study load and workload imposed upon students and teachers, respectively; students are expected to fulfill numerous academic requirements to demonstrate mastery of learning competencies, to the point that several universities, colleges and schools hold classes or demand the submission of class requirements even during holidays or declared breaks;

WHEREAS, overworked teachers have borne the burden of filling in the gaps in the defective implementation of distance learning in the country: while carrying more teaching units, teachers print weekly modules and activity sheets, look for donors of gadgets and printing materials, and cater to students who are left behind;

WHEREAS, burdensome academic load has resulted in deteriorating physical and mental health among students and teachers, and this worsens the anxiety and other mental health issues faced by the people while grappling with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, our teachers and students cannot be forced to function normally when they are grieving, recovering from physical or mental illness, and/or otherwise incapacitated by the appalling national situation, especially now that the latest COVID-19 surge that reached record-breaking daily positive cases has left the country in an even worse situation a year into the pandemic;

WHEREAS, students, teachers, and their families are also experiencing the impacts of the historic economic crisis that plunged millions into joblessness, poverty and hunger;

WHEREAS, families received meager and slow to no cash aid from the government, and the latest cash aid of one thousand pesos (Php1,000) per individual in areas placed under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in 2021 is barely enough for daily expenses, so numerous students had to look for work and/or drop out of school in order to divert time from their burdensome distance learning experience into earning additional income for family expenditure and for gadgets, modules, tuition and other school fees;

WHEREAS, teachers and non-teaching staff who may not have been laid off from work are facing financial struggles on top of their heavy workload because they have not received full and timely compensation and benefits;

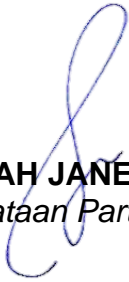
WHEREAS, easing of the academic load is necessary to help students and members of faculty and education support personnel in these difficult times, when the country is still implementing distance learning programs;

WHEREAS, as the country reels from a global health crisis and its economic impacts, Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Leonor Briones, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Commissioner Popoy De Vera, and President Rodrigo Duterte should immediately take action now more than ever to assist students and teachers;

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the House of Representatives strongly urges the Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Education to implement academic easing and 'No Fail' policy in all educational institutions in light of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and historic economic crisis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the aforementioned agencies shall promote measures that provide leniency and remove unreasonable burden from students and teachers in the distance learning set-up, such as, but not limited to, the relaxing of academic requirements, extension of deadlines for the submission of requirements, and suspension of retention requirements.

Adopted,



Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Party-list



Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Party-list



Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-list



Rep. FERDINAND GAITE
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Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
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Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Party-lis