Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1722

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 Gaite and Eufemia C. Cullamat,
and GABRIELA WOMEN’S PARTY Representative Arlene D. Brosas

RESOLUTION
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND COMMISSION ON HIGHER
EDUCATION TO IMPOSE MORATORIUM ON TUITION AND OTHER FEE
INCREASES ON ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AMID HISTORIC HEALTH
AND ECONOMIC CRISIS

WHEREAS, Article XIV, Education, Science and Technology, Arts, Culture, and Sports,
Section 1 of the Philippine Constitution declares that “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, it is also the policy of the State to meet the needs of its people, most
especially in times of crisis;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused grave economic hardship on many
Filipino families as millions are left jobless, small businesses have closed, and “no work,
no pay” workers are hampered by the restrictions imposed under community quarantine;

WHEREAS, the economic crisis has been affecting the capacity of students to enroll and
continue with their studies, with thousands of students temporarily opting out of school to
reduce the financial burden and to help their families in looking for additional income
sources;

WHEREAS, the collection of exorbitant and dubious school fees from students
aggravates the plight of families who are struggling with the impacts of the pandemic on
their livelihood;

WHEREAS, the implementation of distance learning has left school facilities unused, yet
there are educational institutions that continue to charge other school fees such as
Related Learning Experience (RLE) fee, on-the-job training (OJT) fee, cultural fee, gym fee, energy fee, dental fee, and laboratory fees;

WHEREAS, there are educational institutions that charge new fees for printed learning modules in addition to existing rates of tuition and other school fees, and the lack of transparency as to how collected fees are being utilized raises questions among students and their parents;

WHEREAS, in the midst of the pandemic and socio-economic crisis, the Department of Education (DepEd) as of June 2020 approved 654 out of 901 tuition hike applications for Academic Year 2020-2021;

WHEREAS, instead of using its power to halt tuition and other fee increases for the upcoming Academic Year 2021-2022, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has issued “The Interim Guidelines as to the Timeline on the Processing of Applications to Increase Tuition and Other School Fees (TOSF) for AY 2021-2022” which merely adjusts the timeline that educational institutions must follow should they intend to raise fees;

WHEREAS, among the private higher educational institutions that plan to hike fees for Academic Year 2021-2022 are Holy Angel University, Saint Louis University and De La Salle University which have large student populations;

WHEREAS, particularly in higher education, more than half (53.8%) or 1.8 million of the 3.2 million college students in the country are enrolled in private higher education institutions as of Academic Year 2019-2020 based on CHED data;

WHEREAS, should tuition and other fees increase for the upcoming school year, such increases are on top of the indicated yearly average tuition and other fee hikes approved by the Duterte administration as per CHED data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Increase (%)</td>
<td>6.96</td>
<td>10.88</td>
<td>10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other School Fee Increase (%)</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>12.84</td>
<td>12.89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHEREAS, stopping the increases on tuition and other school fee is long overdue because of the skyrocketing cost of education due to decades-long policies of deregulation and commercialization;

WHEREAS, any school fee increase will worsen the suffering of families who deal with the already high prices of goods and services, meager salaries, and insufficient pandemic subsidies;

WHEREAS, apart from our call to swiftly release sufficient cash aid to families amid the pandemic, a tuition moratorium is necessary to give the people, especially the parents and students, a much-needed respite as they strive to meet their day-to-day needs while ensuring learning continuity;
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the members of the House of Representatives strongly urge the Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to impose a moratorium on any school fee increase, be it tuition, miscellaneous, and other school fees on all public and private educational institutions amid health and economic crises.

Adopted,

Rep. SARAH JANÉ 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  
Bayan Muna Party-list

Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS  
Gabriela Women’s Party

Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT  
Bayan Muna Party-list