

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Resolution No. 1816



Introduced by **KABATAAN PARTY-LIST Representative Sarah Jane I. Elago**

RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES TO DISCUSS AND FORMULATE STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has effectively disrupted the previous working and living conditions and systems we were accustomed to;

WHEREAS, the pandemic obliged all students to shift to an online-based or module-based mode of learning, a mode of learning that was sparsely practiced prior to the pandemic;

WHEREAS, the gap between the usual way of learning and the mode forced upon students now has made it hard for people to adjust;

WHEREAS, students found the new mode of learning more tedious and more difficult, and have caused others to be utterly frustrated;

WHEREAS, students have also been affected by the historic economic crisis brought about by this pandemic, either by forcing them to have other jobs to sustain their cost of living or by being forced to stop altogether;

WHEREAS, students have also experienced anxiety regarding the sufficiency of their skills and capabilities during this pandemic, as well as the prospects after;

WHEREAS, the overall climate produced by this COVID-19 pandemic has not been conducive to learning, and have caused the students' mental health to deteriorate;

WHEREAS, self-harm brought about by the difficulties figured prominently during the pandemic, with a 25.7% rise in the number of suicide cases and a recorded 3,529 cases of intentional self-harm during 2020;

WHEREAS, treatment and support for mental health issues is costly, hence, people are unable to obtain proper treatment, thus causing it to worsen, sometimes to the point of death;

WHEREAS, funding for psychological and psychiatric welfare are scarcely funded and largely neglected by the government;

WHEREAS, there is a need for an urgent intervention for the relief of the students' mental health during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic and other times of crisis;

WHEREAS, the issue of mental health is poorly integrated, if integrated at all, into the policy frameworks of educational institutions across all levels;

WHEREAS, universities currently do not have a strong psychological and/or psychiatric services and network necessary in effectively dealing with mental health issues of its students;

WHEREAS, as per Republic Act No. 11036, educational institutions are to develop policies and programs for its stakeholders to raise awareness on mental health issues, identify and provide support and services for individuals at risk, and make mental health facilities more accessible, including referral mechanisms of individual with mental health conditions to treatment and psychosocial support;

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT, the House of Representatives strongly urges the Department of Health, the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, National Center for Mental Health and other relevant agencies form an inter-agency effort to resolve the worsening mental health crisis prevalent among our students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the said inter-agency effort should discuss the root of the crisis and formulate changes on a systemic and policy level, and should result in changes adapted to and considerate of the students and teachers' psychological welfare;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Department of Finance and Department of Budget and Management channel sufficient funding and support for mental health awareness, prevention, protection, and treatment programs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, the Commission on Higher Education and Department of Education act urgently on this matter and cause the promotion of mental well-being in universities and schools across the country the soonest possible.

Adopted,



Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Party-list