A RESOLUTION
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND
DEVELOPMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY,
THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SENIOR CITIZENS, THE NATIONAL
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS AND OTHER RELEVANT
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO IMMEDIATELY DRAFT AND IMPLEMENT
THE GUIDELINES ON THE APPLICABILITY OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWD) DISCOUNTS AND PRIVILEGES
TO ALL ONLINE TRANSACTIONS

WHEREAS, with the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic, senior
citizens and persons with disabilities remain to be among the most vulnerable
sectors of society in terms of public health and accessibility of basic services,
and are forced largely to be indoors and reliant on purchasing goods online;

WHEREAS, under Republic Act No. 9994 otherwise known as the
“Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010” and Republic Act No. 7277 or the
“Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities”, both senior citizens and persons
with disabilities are granted the privilege of 20% discounts on essential goods
and are exempted from paying the added tax;

WHEREAS, the Expanded Senior Citizens Act and the Magna Carta for
Persons with Disabilities do not make any distinction on the applicability of
its privileges and special discounts between offline and online transactions,
and must thus be interpreted to be available for online purchases;

WHEREAS, with the lack of clear guidelines from implementing
agencies regarding the special discounts on online transactions, millions of
Filipino senior citizens and persons with disabilities are unable to avail of the
privileges that they rightfully deserve under the law;
WHEREAS, in as early as October 2020, Laban Konsyumer, Inc. (LKI) along with other consumer advocacy groups have sought guidelines from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in terms of allowing the said sectors to avail of the discounts and benefits in e-commerce purchases;

WHEREAS, as of May 31, 2021, months after sectoral groups have requested for the guidelines, the DSWD and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) have confirmed that they have yet to release the guidelines after important consultations with other national government agencies;

WHEREAS, given the importance of online transactions in the everyday life and subsistence of Filipinos especially belonging in the senior citizens and persons with disabilities sector, it is imperative that the government establish and properly implement the necessary guidelines for special discounts on online transactions to uphold the rights and welfare of the elderly and persons with disabilities with the privileges they are entitled to under the law;

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the government to ensure with urgency that our services for the people are made accessible especially for the marginalized and underprivileged;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, to urge the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Trade and Industry, the National Commission for Senior Citizens, the National Commission on Disability Affairs, and other relevant government agencies to immediately draft and implement the guidelines on the applicability of senior citizens and persons with disabilities discounts and privileges to all online transactions.

Adopted,

REP. ALFRED VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

1 “Rules on online discounts for PWDs, seniors still pending months after request”
https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/05/31/2102109/rules-online-discounts-pwds-seniors-still-pending-months-after-request