RESOLUTION
URGING THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE IATF AND THE PSC TO ALLOW THE SAFE RESUMPTION OF THE TRAINING OF STUDENT-ATHLETES AND TO ALLOT AN AMPLE BUDGET FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES WHO HAVE LOST THEIR SCHOLARSHIP AND/OR OTHER FINANCIAL BENEFITS

WHEREAS, Section 13 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution states that “The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.”;

WHEREAS, Section 17 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution states that “The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.”;

WHEREAS, Section 19 of Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution states that “(1) The State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry. (2) All educational institutions shall undertake regular sports activities throughout the country in cooperation with athletic clubs and other sectors.”;

WHEREAS, schools have yet to return to physical classes for 16 months since the start of the mandatory community quarantine in March 2020;

WHEREAS, this failure of schools to return to face-to-face classes affected student-athletes from different grade and year levels as they are not being able to train for their own respective sport;

WHEREAS, the Inter-Agency Task Force against COVID-19 (IATF) did not allow amateur and non-professional commercial sports leagues to organize any events at all with uncertainties over the status of the availability of COVID-19 vaccines;

WHEREAS, the lack of training, and of competition opportunities may result to the disruption of the young athletes’ development as their careers were put on hold. These may also result in the student athletes’ disappointment, which may ultimately lead to a lack of motivation;

WHEREAS, these circumstances also caused a number of student-athletes to lose their educational scholarship and/or other benefits such as food and housing allowances that they would have normally received due to their athletic talents;
WHEREAS, allowing this situation to continue would be a waste of the young athletes’ talents that could potentially bring honor and awards to the country in the future;

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the House of Representatives shall urge the IATF and the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) to think of alternative measures for student-athletes to be able to safely return to their trainings while minimizing any risk of COVID-19 transmission;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the House of Representatives compels the Department of Budget and Management through the PSC to allot funds for student-athletes who have lost their financial benefits amidst the COVID-19 pandemic

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the House of Representatives compels the PSC to propose an allotment of budget in the General Appropriations Act 2022 that would cover the resumption of the student athletes’ training, the risk management, and the loss of their financial benefit

Adopted,

Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Party-list