

Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session

**6040**

House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_



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**INTRODUCED BY  
REP. ALFRED VARGAS**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM TO ENABLE POOR FILIPINO FAMILIES TO**  
**HAVE AT LEAST ONE COLLEGE GRADUATE BY INSTITUTIONALIZING**  
**THE EXPANDED STUDENT GRANTS-IN-AID PROGRAM FOR POVERTY**  
**ALLEVIATION (ESGP-PA) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Filipino family is the constant social security of the country. We believe that whatever happens, we always go back to our families to seek refuge and support.

According to the data provided by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, some 750 million adults remained illiterate in 2016. The baseline projections suggest that six percent of the world population will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030, missing the target of ending poverty. UN further notes that in 2018, one fifth of the world's youth were not in education, employment, or training, meaning that they were neither gaining professional experience nor acquiring or developing skills through educational or vocational programs in their prime years.

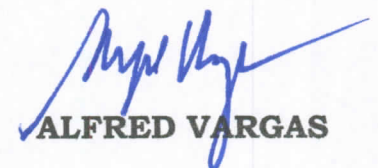
While it is stated in the 1987 Constitution that "the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all," education seems to be the missing link in breaking the cycle of poverty among Filipino families.

Thus, the government must exert more efforts necessary to invest in its people, enabling them to fulfill their aspirations through a support system that aims to provide at least one college graduate per family.

Under this proposed policy, a student-grantee from among the household beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program shall receive a maximum of P60,000.00 per academic year to cover the cost of tuition and other expenses to empower the student to complete his or her college degree.

This bill seeks to empower Filipino families, especially those who are living below the poverty line, to the goal of achieving a better quality of life.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is sought.



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*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*One Family, One Graduate Act.*”

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all Filipino citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Further, it is the policy of the State to establish and maintain system of grants, scholarships and subsidies, to help poor families rise above and contribute to national development.

**SECTION 3. Objective.** – This Act aims to contribute to the National Government’s thrust to effectively address poverty by increasing the number of graduates in higher education among poor household and by ensuring that these graduates are employed in high- value occupations. This ensures that qualified household beneficiaries of the government’s Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) shall have at least one family member who graduated from college.

**SECTION 4. *Establishment of an Expanded Student Grants-in-Aid Program for Poverty Alleviation.*** – An expanded Student Grants-in-Program for Poverty (ESGP-PA) shall be established, which shall be exclusively granted and used for the tertiary education of poor but deserving students belonging to indigent households under the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR), identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), or information sector families. Potential student-grantees shall be enrolled in State Universities and College (SUCs) in course offerings aligned with the priorities of the government.

**SECTION 5. *Coverage.*** – Grantees of ESGP-PA shall be limited to poor but deserving students, giving to 4Ps beneficiaries who are qualified to enroll in selected SUCs to take up priority programs of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

**SECTION 6. *Entitlement.*** – A student-grantee shall be entitled to a maximum of Sixty Thousand Pesos (P60,000.00) per academic year or Thirty Thousand (P30,000.00) per semester. The amount shall cover the cost of tuition and other school fees, academic and extra curricular expenses, purchase of textbook, board and lodging, transportation, clothing, medical needs and other valid related education expenses and support services to complete the student-grantee's degree program.

**SECTION 7. *Selection of Student-Grantees and Role of the DSWD.*** – The DSWD shall identify and validate potential student-grantees from among household beneficiaries of the 4Ps Program, which shall be submitted to participating SUCs for admission process. It shall likewise coordinate necessary intervention for the student-grantee and family at the local level, and co-monitor with CHED the implementation of the program.

**SECTION 8. *Creation of the National ESGP-PA Committee.*** – A National ESGP-PA Committee shall be created, which shall be composed of the following:

1. CHED Chairperson, as Chairperson of the Committee
2. Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), member
3. Secretary of the Department of Welfare and Development (DSWD), member
4. Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), member
5. President of the Philippines Associations of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), member



**SECTION 9. *Functions of the National ESGP-PA Committee.*** – The Committee shall have the following functions:

1. Oversee the operation and implementation of the program;
2. Enhance the policies that will ensure that the service provided by the program shall serve the target student-grantees;
3. Orient SUCs on the implementation of the program;
4. Re-allocate unfilled slots to other equally deserving students-grantees;
5. Decide on appeals, grievances, complaints, request for additional slots; and
6. Monitor and evaluate the administration and implementation of the program.

**SECTION 10. *Qualifications of the Students-Grantees.*** – Student-Grantees must have the following qualifications for the program:

1. Identified “4Ps” beneficiary;
2. Physically and mentally fit;
3. High school graduate or equivalent;
4. No other higher education scholarship/ grant from public institutions;
5. Pass the entrance exam and academic requirements set by the SUCs;
6. Pass the requirements set by the National ESGP-PA Committee; and
7. Must enroll in CHED priority Programs.

**SECTION 11. *Responsibilities of Students-Grantees.***

1. Carry a full load per semester as prescribed in the curriculum and finish within the required period of the program.
2. Maintain a satisfactory academic performance in accordance with policies and standards of the SUCs.
3. Enter into a return service agreement of 2 years after graduation.
4. Adhere to the term and conditions stipulated in the contract.

**SECTION 12. *Responsibilities of Parents/ Guardian of the Student/Grantees.***

1. Sign the contract with the SUCs as the executor of the program.
2. Ensure that related expenses and other incidental expenses for health and clothing shall be paid on time.
3. Ensure That recipient will religiously attend his/her classes, minimize absences, and complete school requirements.
4. Ensure that all financial benefits directly received by the grantee shall only be spent on legitimate purposes and on time.

5. If the beneficiary is the head of the family, he shall assume the foregoing responsibilities to complete his studies.

**SECTION 13. *Monitoring and Reporting by State Universities and Colleges.***

– State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) where grantees of the ESGP-PA are enrolled shall monitor and report to the ESGP-PA Committee the academic performance of the grantees at the end of each academic year until the grantees have graduated.

**SECTION 14. *Appropriations.*** – The DBM shall release directly to the respective SUCs the amount of Two Billion Five Hundred Million Pesos (P2,500,000,000.00) for the student grantees and the activities of the program for each academic year, which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The CHED, in consultation with the DSWD, DOLE, DBM, and PASUC shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provision of this Act, within six (6) months from its effectivity.

**SECTION 16. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to, or inconsistent With this Act, are hereby modified or repealed accordingly.

**SECTION 17. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 18. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,