

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Batasan Hills, Quezon City



**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 648**

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Introduced by  
**BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,**  
**Rep. FERDINAND GAITE and Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,**  
**GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,**  
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

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**RESOLUTION**  
**COMMENDING ACT TEACHERS PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE FRANCE CASTRO**  
**FOR BEING AWARDED THE 2019 FEBE ELIZABETH VELASQUEZ TRADE UNION RIGHTS**  
**AWARD**

WHEREAS, a public school teacher for 20 years prior to being a Member of the Philippine Congress, ACT Teachers Party-List Representative France Castro have fought for the rights and welfare of public and private school teachers; for a nationalist, scientific, and mass-based education; and for the economic and political rights of marginalized sectors of Philippine society in general;

WHEREAS, Rep. Castro served as Secretary General of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), the militant, nationalist, and progressive organization of teachers and education workers of the country. She was the founding President of the first ever union of public school teachers, the ACT National Capital Region Union, which, under her term, secured the first collective negotiation agreement between teachers and government, mandating economic and non-economic benefits for the former;

WHEREAS, during her first term as Member of the House of Representatives, Rep. Castro had consistently stood up for substantial salary increases for public school teachers and other government employees, as well as the national minimum wage for workers in the private sector. She filed various measures seeking adequate benefits for teachers and against delays or withholding thereof. She was also among

those who spearheaded the passage of the law providing for expanded maternity leave for all women workers and who scored the passage of anti-people laws and policies including the regressive taxes brought by the TRAIN Law;

WHEREAS, on October 11, 2019, in Utrecht, The Netherlands, the Federatie Nederlandse Vakbeweging (FNV), a federation of Dutch trade unions honoured, ACT Teachers Party-List Representative France Castro with the Febe Elizabeth Velasquez Trade Union Award, in recognition of her contribution to the ongoing struggle of workers, teachers and trade unions in the Philippines and around the world;

WHEREAS, the Febe Elizabeth Velasquez Trade Union Award is presented to “pay tribute to trade union leaders who, while working under very difficult circumstances and taking enormous personal risks, resolutely defend trade union rights in countries where those rights are being violated.” The Award was named after the Salvadorian trade union activist and Secretary General of trade union FENASTRAS, Febe Elizabeth Velasquez, who was murdered in 1989 because of her activities for the trade union;

WHEREAS, the Award recognized Rep. Castro’s “struggle throughout many years to organize teachers and to fight for basic workers’ rights in the Philippines,” which the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) lists as among the 10 worst countries in the world for workers and trade unionists;

WHEREAS, it also cited her steadfast advocacy for the indigenous people’s right to education, which led to her illegal detention, arrest, and harassment (via red-tagging and trumped-up charges courtesy of the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines), along with 17 of her fellow members of a National Solidarity Mission for the Lumad in Talaingod, Davao del Norte last November 2018;

WHEREAS, this international recognition to Rep. Castro is likewise an international recognition of the severe climate affecting Philippine teachers and education support personnel—They are underpaid yet overworked, forced to struggle for their rights and interests but are responded to with intensified oppression and fascism;

WHEREAS, the Award also comes in the context of the ongoing illegal profiling, intelligence gathering, harassment, and vilification by the Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict against progressive organizations representing public school teachers and academic personnel in such as the Alliance of Concerned Teachers and its regional unions and the All-UP Academic Employees Union;

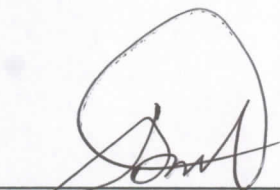
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the House of Representatives commend ACT Teachers Party-List Representative France Castro for being awarded the 2019 Febe Elizabeth Velasquez Trade Union Award.



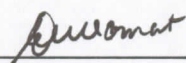
Adopted,



**Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**  
BAYAN MUNA Party-List



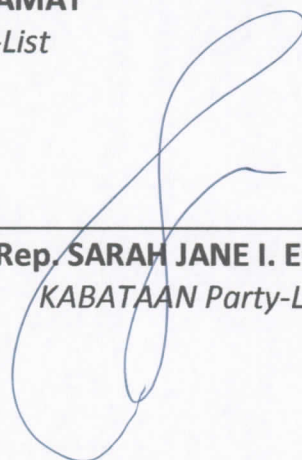
**Rep. FERDINAND GAITE**  
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**Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**  
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