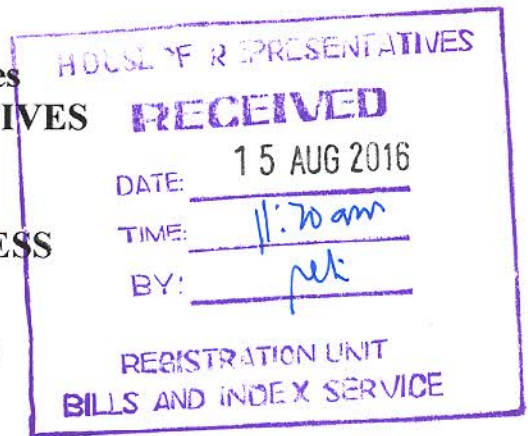


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2897



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ARTHUR C. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 4, Section I of the Constitution mandates that the State should "*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.*" However, access to tertiary education in the country remains a challenge especially to the poor and the underprivileged.

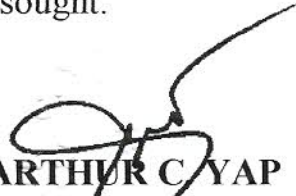
A nationwide NEDA-commissioned survey entitled "*Ambisyon 2040*", which looks into the aspirations, values and principles of Filipinos, showed that 79 percent of Filipinos aspire for a simple and comfortable life which includes having the capacity to provide college education for their family. Unfortunately, an Annual Poverty Indicators Survey released by the Philippine Statistics Office showed that almost 30 percent of high school graduates could not attend college because of its high cost.

This bill seeks to appease this problem by establishing a mechanism that will enable poor Filipino families, especially the beneficiaries of the government's Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), to have at least one college graduate. Through the institutionalization of the Expanded Student Grants-in-Aid Program for Poverty Alleviation (ESGP-PA), a student grantee will be entitled to a maximum of P60,000 per academic year to cover the cost for tuition and other school fees to complete the student-grantee's degree program. State universities and colleges shall monitor the academic

performance of the grantees at the end of each academic year until the grantees have graduated.

This bill ultimately ensures that even the poor and underprivileged Filipino families will be provided the opportunity to have at least one family member who graduated from college, an effective tool that will help every Filipino family rise from poverty, and enable them to contribute to national development.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of the bill, a counterpart of the same "One Family, One Graduate" bill filed in the Senate by Senator Sonny Angara, is earnestly sought.



ARTHUR C. YAP
Representative

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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, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "One Family,
2 One Graduate Act of 2016".

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is the policy of the State to protect
4 and promote the right of all Filipino citizens to quality education at all levels
5 and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.
6 Further, it is the policy of the State to establish and maintain a system of
7 grants, scholarships and subsidies, which shall be available to deserving
8 students, especially the underprivileged, to help poor families rise above
9 poverty and contribute to national development.

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

17 **SEC. 4. *Establishment of an Expanded Student Grants-in-Aid***
18 ***Program for Poverty Alleviation.*** – An Expanded Student Grants-in-Aid
19 Program for Poverty for Poverty Alleviation (ESGP-PA) shall be
20 established, which shall be exclusively granted and used for the tertiary
21 education of poor but deserving students belonging to indigent households
22 under the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction
23 (NHTS-PR), identified by the Department of Social Welfare and
24 Development (DSWD), or informal sector families. Potential student-

grantees shall be enrolled in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in course offerings aligned with the priorities of the government.

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

SEC. 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) per semester. The amount shall cover the cost of tuition and other school fees, academic and extracurricular expenses, purchase of textbooks, board and lodging, transportation, clothing, medical needs and other valid education-related expenses and support services to complete the student-grantee's degree program.

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

SEC. 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 Department of Budget and Management (DBM),
member

1 3. Secretary of Department of Welfare and Development (DSWD),
2 member.

3 4. Secretary of Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE),
4 member

5 5. President of the Philippine Association of State Universities and
6 Colleges (PASUC), member

7 **SEC. 9. *Functions of the National ESGP-PA Committee.*** - The

8 Committee shall have the following functions:

9 1. Oversee the operation and implementation of the program;

10 2. Enhance the policies that will ensure that the services
11 provided by the program shall serve the target student-
12 grantees;

13 3. Orient SUCs on the implementation of the program;

14 4. Reallocate unfilled slots to other equally deserving student-
15 grantees;

16 5. Decide on appeals, grievances, complaints, requests for
17 additional slots; and

18 6. Monitor and evaluate the administration and implementation
19 of the program.

20 **SEC. 10. *Qualifications of Student-Grantees.*** - Student-Grantees

21 must have the following qualifications to be eligible for the program:

22 1. Identified “4Ps “ beneficiary;

23 2. Physically and mentally fit;

24 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.

SEC. 11. *Responsibilities of Student-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 the policies and standards of the SUC.
3. Enter in a return service agreement of 2 years after graduation.
4. Adhere to the terms and conditions stipulated in the Contract.

SEC. 12. *Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians of 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 the recipient will religiously attend his/her classes; minimize absences, 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.

1 **SEC. 13. *Monitoring and Reporting by State Universities and***
2 ***Colleges.*** - SUCs where grantees of the ESGP-PA are enrolled shall monitor
3 and report to the ESGP-PA Committee the academic performance of the
4 grantees at the end of each academic year until the grantees have graduated.

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

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

14 **SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is
15 declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not
16 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

17 **SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.*** - All other laws, orders, issuances,
18 circulars, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with
19 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

20 **SECTION 18. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
21 days from its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper
22 of general circulation in the Philippines, whichever comes earlier.

APPROVED.