



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 118

Submitted by the Committee on Labor and Employment on **DEC 04 2019**
Re: House Resolution No. 66
Recommending its adoption without amendment
Sponsors: Representatives Enrico A. Pineda and Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

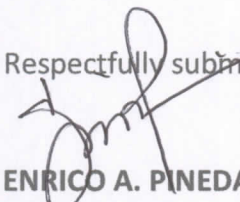
Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Labor and Employment, to which was referred House Resolution No. 66, introduced by Representatives Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, Ferdinand R. Gaite, Eufemia "Ka Femia" C. Cullamat, Arlene D. Brosas and Sarah Jane I. Elago, entitled:

**"RESOLUTION COMMENDING ACT TEACHERS PARTY-LIST
REPRESENTATIVE FRANCE L. CASTRO FOR BEING AWARDED THE
2019 ARTHUR SVENSSON INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR TRADE
UNION RIGHTS"**

has considered the same and recommends its adoption without amendment, with Representatives Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, Ferdinand R. Gaite, Eufemia "Ka Femia" C. Cullamat, Arlene D. Brosas, Sarah Jane I. Elago, Enrico A. Pineda, Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Mark O. Go, Henry R. Villarica, Ma. Theresa V. Collantes, Diogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, Diego "Nonoy" C. Ty, Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Marisol C. Panotes, Cyrille "Beng" F. Abueg-Zaldivar, Rowena Niña O. Taduran, Jose Gay G. Padiernos, Alfredo A. Garbin Jr., Lawrence "Law" H. Fortun and Ma. Victoria V. Umali as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



ENRICO A. PINEDA

Chairperson

Committee on Labor and Employment

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 66*

Introduced by Representatives Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, Ferdinand Gaite, Eufemia "Ka Femia" C. Cullamat, Arlene D. Brosas, Sarah Jane I. Elago, Enrico A. Pineda, Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Mark O. Go, Henry R. Villarica, Ma. Theresa V. Collantes, Diogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, Diego "Nonoy" C. Ty, Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Marisol C. Panotes, Cyrille "Beng" F. Abueg-Zaldivar, Rowena Niña O. Taduran, Jose Gay G. Padiernos, Alfredo A. Garbin Jr., Lawrence "Law" H. Fortun and Ma. Victoria V. Umali

RESOLUTION

COMMENDING ACT TEACHERS PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE FRANCE L. CASTRO FOR BEING AWARDED THE 2019 ARTHUR SVENSSON INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR TRADE UNION RIGHTS

1 **WHEREAS**, a public school teacher for twenty (20) years prior to being a member of the
2 Philippine Congress, ACT Teachers Party-List Representative France L. Castro has fought for the
3 rights and welfare of public and private school teachers for a nationalist, scientific, and mass-
4 based education, and for the economic and political rights of marginalized sectors of
5 Philippine society in general;

6
7 **WHEREAS**, Representative Castro served as secretary general of the Alliance of
8 Concerned Teachers (ACT), a militant, nationalist, and progressive organization of teachers and
9 education workers of the country. She was the founding president of the first ever union of
10 public school teachers, the ACT National Capital Region Union which, under her term, secured
11 the first collective negotiation agreement between teachers and government, mandating
12 economic and non-economic benefits for the former;

13
14 **WHEREAS**, during her first term as member of the House of Representatives,
15 Representative Castro has consistently stood up for substantial salary increases for public
16 school teachers and other government employees as well as the national minimum wage for
17 workers in the private sector. She filed various measures seeking adequate benefits for
18 teachers, and against delays or withholding thereof. She was also among those who
19 spearheaded the passage of the law providing for an expanded maternity leave for all women
20 workers and who scored the passage of anti-people laws and policies including the regressive
21 taxes brought by Republic Act 10963 or the "Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion
22 (TRAIN)" law;

1 **WHEREAS**, on June 12, 2019, in Oslo, Norway, the Svensson Foundation honored ACT
2 Teachers Party-List Representative France L. Castro with the Tenth Svensson International
3 Prize for Trade Union Rights, admitting her into “an exclusive community of 10 strong union
4 heroes and organizations”;

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the Svensson International Prize is presented to “a person or organization
7 that has worked predominately to promote trade union rights and/or strengthen trade union
8 organizing around the world.” In his remarks during the awarding ceremony, the chairman of
9 the Prize Committee Frode Alfheim said that Svensson laureates are “fighting for basic trade
10 union rights and to organize workers under harsh conditions...The Arthur Svensson award is a
11 reminder that no worker should stand alone”;

12
13 **WHEREAS**, the Svensson International Prize Committee recognized Representative
14 Castro’s “struggle throughout many years to organize teachers and to fight for basic workers’
15 rights in the Philippines,” which the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) lists as
16 among the ten (10) worst countries in the world for workers and trade unionists;

17
18 **WHEREAS**, it also cited her steadfast advocacy for the rights of children, especially
19 those of indigenous peoples, for free and culturally sensitive education that enables their self-
20 determination - an advocacy which led to her illegal detention, arrest, and harassment (via
21 red-tagging and trumped-up charges courtesy of the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the
22 Armed Forces of the Philippines), along with seventeen (17) of her fellow members of the
23 National Solidarity Mission for the Lumad in Talaingod, Davao del Norte;

24
25 **WHEREAS**, this international recognition of Representative Castro is likewise an
26 international recognition of the severe climate affecting Philippine teachers and education
27 support personnel. They are underpaid yet overworked, forced to struggle for their rights and
28 interests but are responded to with intensified oppression and fascism;

29
30 **WHEREAS**, the Svensson International Prize also comes in the context of the ongoing
31 illegal profiling, intelligence gathering, and harassment by the PNP against progressive
32 organizations representing public school teachers and academic personnel such as the ACT
33 and its regional unions, and the All-UP Academic Employees Union;

34
35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, that the House of
36 Representatives commend ACT Teachers Party-List Representative France L. Castro for being
37 awarded the 2019 Arthur Svensson International Prize for Trade Union Rights.

Adopted,