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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESSFirst Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 933



Introduced by

ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
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

RESOLUTION

URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE EXCLUSION OF TEACHERS AND EDUCATION SUPPORT PERSONNEL IN PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT COVID-19 AUGMENTATION MEASURES PROGRAM, THEREBY FAILING TO SWIFTLY AID THIS SUBSECTOR OF WORKERS IN COPING WITH THE COVID-19 CRISIS

WHEREAS, according to an online survey conducted by the Alliance of Concerned Teachers-Private Schools (ACT-Private Schools) in April, 4,005 or 94% of 4,268 respondents from 65 cities and provinces in the country "have received no financial assistance to sustain living" since the various generalized lockdowns were imposed;

WHEREAS, per this COVID-19 Hotline Assistance for Teachers in Private Schools (CHAT Project), 56.6% of the respondents said that their employers applied for the Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE) COVID-19 Augmentation Measures Program (CAMP) but only 6% were granted the same. On the other hand, the rest of the respondents (37.%) "were either deemed unfit to receive such assistance based on DOLE's qualifications, were rejected due to the exhaustion of funds for the COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program, or their employers did not apply for the aid";

WHEREAS, the CHAT Project also reported that 77.9% of the respondents "do not already receive any monthly compensation from their schools," while the remaining percentage are "in doubt if they will be compensated during vacation until the next academic year starts anew."

WHEREAS, the complaints aired in this survey have been verified through informal consultations from teachers and school personnel conducted by and reports received by this Representation;

WHEREAS, these dire conditions of a substantial number of educators brought by the stoppage of work due to the lockdowns merely highlight the fact that contractualization and "no work, no pay" schemes are prevalent in private schools, victimizing even professional teachers and staff who are supposed to be necessary and desirable to the operations of education institutions;

WHEREAS, that teachers and other employees of private schools have been overlooked by DOLE is very obvious just looking at its too-conservative targets for CAMP, 657,201 for *all establishments nationwide*: as opposed to 409,7573 teachers, faculty and school personnel in small, medium, and large private schools all over the country as estimated by the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA), 39,209 whom have expressed that they are in need of financial assistance, per COCOPEA, and 18,274 of whom are under no-work-no-pay arrangements;

WHEREAS, many private schools have expressed their worry that they may not be able to continue paying their employees' salaries beyond April 30, leaving the fates of even those coming from the middle class in limbo;

WHEREAS, according to reports from teachers and employees in private schools, DOLE's Small Business Wage Subsidy (SBWS)—the program intended to replace CAMP after it closed in April)—is so far going the same slow and bureaucratic pace of CAMP, with said employees in constant apprehension that they will be again excluded from the 3.4 million worker=beneficiaries sought to be covered by SBWS;

WHEREAS, urgent action on the part of both DOLE and Congress is needed so as to prevent this subsector of workers from being thrice victimized, by the socioeconomic hardships brought by COVID-19, by their exclusion from CAMP, and then by their exclusion again from SBWS. The DOLE has to correct its bureaucratic lags in the implementation of its social amelioration program while Congress has to step in with its powers of oversight and inquiry with regard to this implementation by an administrative agency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the House of Representatives urge the Committee on Labor and Employment conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation into the exclusion of teachers and education support personnel in private elementary and high schools and higher education institutions from the Department of Labor and Employment COVID-19 Augmentation Measures Program, thereby failing to swiftly aid this subsector of workers in coping with the COVID-19 crisis.

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