

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



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 513

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

AN ACT
RECOGNIZING THE ANNUAL OBSERVANCE OF WORLD EDUCATION SUPPORT
PERSONNEL DAY, DECLARING FOR THE PURPOSE THE SIXTEENTH DAY OF MAY OF
EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL EDUCATION SUPPORT PERSONNEL DAY IN THE
PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On May 16, 2018 during the first conference on Education Support Personnel in Brussels, Belgium, Education International, a global union federation representing organizations of teachers and other education employees, launched the first World Education Support Personnel Day and adopted the *Declaration on the Rights and Status of Education Support Personnel*. This landmark document affirms that administration of quality education is impossible without teaching assistants; registrars and clerks; school doctors, nurses, and psychologists, guidance counselors; librarians; and the rest of professional, administrative, technical, and general staff working in education sector.

Education International raised concerns on the increased exploitation of ESP, the absence of decent work conditions, and the violation of fundamental human and labor rights such as the right to organize and bargain collectively—which EI partly attributed to outsourcing, labor cost-cutting and austerity measures, and privatization in the education sector.

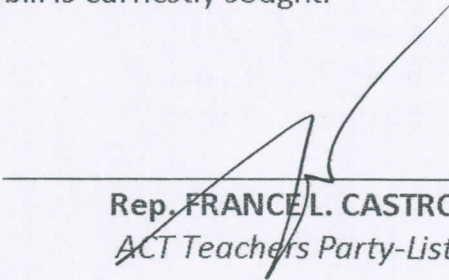
Education support personnel in the Philippines are ignored and undervalued just like their international counterparts. Non-teaching personnel in public and private education are paid inadequate salaries and benefits. The minimum pay for regular employees is far below the living wage, and the salaries of non-regular employees are even lower.

Also alarming is the lack of sufficient education jobs which forces teachers to act as nurses, librarians, encoders, and processors for school data, janitors, security guards, and others, causing them severe overwork and contributes to the decline of quality of education in general.

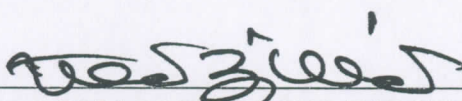
Other concerns include lack of security of tenure; abuse of job order, contract of service, part-time, and limited-term hiring, endo, and other forms of contractualization; overwork and inhumane working conditions; unsafe and unhealthy work environment; and lack of professional support and guidance as well as possibilities for career development.

This bill sets aside May 16 as a special working holiday in the honor of education support personnel, to enable society to celebrate and value their important role. More importantly, this will highlight government's duty to take concrete steps to promote and protect their status, rights, and conditions of service, foremost of which is increasing the budget to be spent directly for our public schools and education support personnel, and the institution of policies to counter and resolve the above issues in both public and private education.


Approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



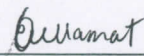
Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-List




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



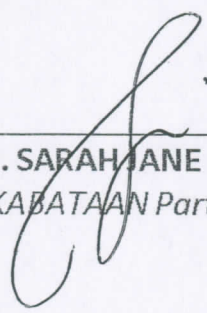
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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the ***“National Education Support Personnel Day Act.”***

SECTION 2. Education Support Personnel refers to a wide range of professional, administrative, technical, and general staff working within the education sector such as teaching assistants; school doctors, nurses, and psychologists; registrars and clerks; guidance counselors; librarians; and bus drivers, among others.

SECTION 3. In recognition of the observance of the World Education Support Personnel Day, the Sixteenth day of May of every year is hereby declared as “National Education Support Personnel Day.”

To ensure a meaningful observance of this special working holiday, all heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned and -controlled corporations especially those directly involved with education, including local government units, and employers in the private sector, shall encourage and afford sufficient time and opportunities for their employees to engage and participate in any activity conducted within the premises of their offices or establishments in the celebration of "National Education Support Personnel Day."

SECTION 4. *Lead Agencies.* Pursuant to the observance of National Education Support Personnel Day, the annual program of activities shall be prepared and implemented with the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education as the lead agencies.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,