

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 831



Introduced by **KABATAAN PARTY-LIST Representative Sarah Jane I. Elago,**
ACT TEACHERS PARTY-LIST Representative France L. Castro,
BAYAN MUNA PARTY-LIST Representatives Carlos Isagani T. Zarate,
Ferdinand Gaite and Eufemia C. Cullamat,
and GABRIELA WOMEN'S PARTY Representative Arlene D. Brosas

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ENDING THE CURRENT ACADEMIC TERM, A
UNIVERSAL PASS POLICY, PROMOTION OF HEALTH LITERACY, AND
PROVIDING AN EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND AMID SCHOOL
CLOSURES DUE TO COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, classes have been suspended since March 10 in Metro Manila, and in all other places under varying levels of community quarantine;

WHEREAS, school and campus closures prompted a massive shift to online classes. Almost two months into holding classes online, many, both from students and faculty alike, are still offline in terms of teaching and learning continuity;

WHEREAS, those without access to computer and reliable internet at home, especially students from families with no income due to lockdown, are disproportionately affected;

WHEREAS, online classes are illusory amid backdrop of all who cannot fully participate digitally. Issues on internet connectivity, gadget accessibility, and delayed emergency subsidy, are leaving too many behind;

WHEREAS, worse, the transition to online classes and extending the academic term are being used to legitimize collection of payment for full amount of tuition and other school fees from quarantined families who are now suffering from loss of income due to unemployment, 'no work, no pay' status, or closure of businesses. It added pressure at an already tremendously difficult time that it has already taken a toll on students' mental health;

WHEREAS, online classes and academic term extension, instead of promoting continuity, have only widened the learning inequality around the digital and income gap in the Philippines. Ending the current academic term now and crediting courses with a passing grade of letter "P" provide a fair, non-discriminatory and equitable option for all students who are under different circumstances during a public health crisis;

WHEREAS, schools should not be allowed to give an automatic numerical passing grade of 75, or "tres" or 3.0 to students who cannot attend classes and submit requirements online. Academic freedom does not discriminate. Circumstances around public health crisis are beyond students' control;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government has the primary responsibility to intervene and ensure that the right to quality and accessible education is protected and that the health and well-being of at least 30 million students, teachers, school officials and campus support personnel, remain as a top priority to effectively combat COVID-19;

WHEREAS, CHED cannot continue to leave the decision to end the academic term and adjust grading and promotion schemes to schools and universities. Having no general framework for education institutions, ensuring the right to education and academic freedom with fair, non-discriminatory and equitable measures in response to the pandemic, can gravely affect not only student access and mobility, but also their future employment, career, and role in nation-building;

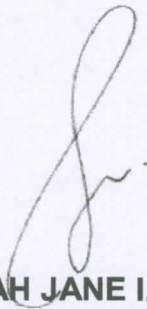
WHEREAS, there must be a nationally-coordinated pandemic response and recovery plan for education based on the assessment of needs and situation of stakeholders, and with the promotion of health literacy and provision of an emergency relief fund for student and faculty aid, and institutional support. The government must take the necessary steps to create equal opportunities for meaningful dialogue to shape relevant education policies during and after COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the rights of the people, students, especially the best interests of children and the youth, must be central to planning and decision-making, not an afterthought. Student voices must neither be sidelined nor criminalized, especially now that young people in action to help combat COVID-19 must be supported. Filipino students and youth are taking continued action in leadership and support of initiatives to raise awareness, promote health literacy, strengthen our health systems and community-led response to Covid-19, call for mass testing, protection of front liners, transparency and accountability and all necessary steps to defeat the virus and work towards healing and building a just, healthy and prosperous life for Filipinos;

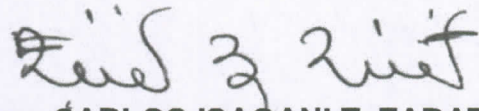
NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT, the House of Representatives call for ending the current academic term, universal pass policy,

promotion of health literacy, and providing an education emergency relief fund amid school closures due to COVID-19 public health emergency.

Adopted,



Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Party-list



Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Party-list



Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-list



Rep. FERDINAND GAITE
Bayan Muna Party-list



Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women's Party



Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Party-list