

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 5863**



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**INTRODUCED BY: HONORABLE JOCELYN F. FORTUNO**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippine Constitution explicitly provides to give priority to education and to promote and protect the right of all citizens to take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all.


In pursuance of these Constitutional mandates, Congress passed Republic Act No. 6655 otherwise known as the "Free Public Secondary Education Act of 1988", and later Republic Act No. 6728 otherwise known as the "Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education Act" as amended in 1998 by Republic Act No. 8545 to grant assistance to students and teachers in the form of tuition fee supplements for students in private high school, including students in vocational and technical courses and in private colleges and universities, and also established the Education Loan Fund to give students opportunity to avail of loans for education-related expenses.

Notwithstanding these privileges however, the number of elementary and high school dropouts has risen, reaching 4.8 million or an eleven percent increase since 2012. Likewise, the college drop out rates revealed an alarming 83.7 percent, which means the country is producing 2.13 million college dropouts annually.

In order to address the situation, Congress passed in 2017 Republic Act No. 10931 otherwise known as the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act" by providing students, subject to certain conditions, free tuition and other school fees in state universities and colleges, local universities and colleges and state-run technical-vocational institutions, including cost of living allowance, allowance for room and board costs incurred by student; allowance for books, supplies, transportation and miscellaneous personal expenses, a reasonable allowance for the documented rental or purchase of a personal computer or laptop and other education-related expenses.

It is therefore the paramount objective of this bill to waive the conditions and expand the privileges granted under the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act" by providing monthly stipend, clothing allowance and other education-related needs of students in order to ensure that there will be one scholar in a Filipino Family.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**JOCELYN F. FORTUNO**  
Representative  
Fifth District, Camarines Sur



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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING A SCHOLARSHIP GRANT FOR EVERY FILIPINO FAMILY**

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "One Family, One Scholar Act of 2019."

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to give priority to education and promote total human liberation and development as it also recognizes the sanctity of family life as a basic social institution. Toward this end, the family shall be strengthened when the State shall provide with the opportunity to send at least one member of every Filipino Family to college free from any related financial expenses.

**SEC. 3. Establishment of One Family, One Scholar Program.** - There shall be established a One Family, One Scholar Program whereby one member of a Filipino Family shall be a recipient for an appropriate college course or training for a technical or vocational skills. The scholarship grant shall cover all related expenses, including but not limited to board and lodging, book allowance, transportation expenses, etc.

**SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall issue the necessary rules and regulations which shall contain a program relevant to the qualifications based on the financial status of the family and not on the academic performance of the recipient, and that the later shall make a commitment to help his or her family after graduation.

**SEC. 5. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the CHED. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 6. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*