

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. **2447**



Introduced by **Kabataan Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

RESOLUTION
STOPPING THE ANNUAL INCREASE IN TUITION AND OTHER
SCHOOL FEES NATIONWIDE

WHEREAS, Section 1 of Article XIV of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines states that “the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all”;

WHEREAS, private basic education and higher education institutions in the country are now preparing proposals for tuition and other school fees (TOSF) hikes for Academic Year 2019-2020;

WHEREAS, according to the National Union of Students of the Philippines, around 700 private schools, universities and colleges will submit applications for 6-8% TOSF increase to the Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED), which have approved the annual round of fee increases at the expense of students and families;

WHEREAS, majority of Filipino students enrolled in senior high school and in tertiary education are in private schools. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of institutions that offer tertiary-level degrees are privately run, and the remaining is composed of SUCs, LUCs and other government schools;

WHEREAS, the entry of the average Filipino family to schools is obstructed by exorbitant TOSF as well as other expenses that keeps a student entering school. Another round of fees increases causes higher drop-outs, slower graduations, and fewer completion rates;

WHEREAS, millions of families are suffering from the additional costs brought about by additional two years required of students under the K-12 law. Low wages make it impossible for minimum wage earners to send their children to school;

WHEREAS, in private higher education, the national average tuition rate as of Academic Year 2017-2018 is Php 786.84 per unit. An academic load of 42-60 units per academic year will mean that a student needs Php 33,047 to Php 47,210 for tuition fees alone with expenses such as living allowance,

student housing, supplies, class projects, and all other school fees, the cost of college education can go from Php 168,000 to as high as Php 230,000;

WHEREAS, private schools point to TRAIN Law as one of the major reasons for increasing fees by around 10% which is higher than the usual rate of 6%;

WHEREAS, the government persists in treading the path of commercialization and deregulation in education. It basically gives schools the liberty to increase fees without exercising strict control and oversight, resulting in skyrocketing TOSF increases in hundreds of schools nationwide;

WHEREAS, while claiming credit for the free education program, the Duterte government has not reversed the state policy of privatizing which has education profitable to big businesses but inaccessible to many;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that Members of the House of Representatives do necessary measures to stop the annual increase in tuition and other school fees nationwide.

Adopted,

Rep. SARAH JANE L. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, overlapping the printed name and party affiliation.