RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE QUESTIONABLE TUITION RATES AND OTHER FEES BEING IMPOSED BY SOME PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION LEVELS DESPITE THE TRANSITION TO ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORMS DUE TO THE COVID19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution 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, on March 11, 2020, as the COVID19 virus spread globally, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a “pandemic”, and such has been the basis of Proclamation No. 922 (S. 2020) declaring a public health emergency and Proclamation No. 929 (S. 2020) in the entire country, especially with the sharp increase of COVID19 confirmed cases;

WHEREAS, during the State of the Nation Address delivered by His Excellency President Rodrigo Roa Duterte last July 27, 2020, he emphasized that there will be no “face-to-face” classes until a vaccine is made available, reiterating further that he will not risk the health of our students;

WHEREAS, with the onset of the pandemic, private educational institutions have undertaken an online learning scheme as an alternative approach to the traditional school setup - wherein online platforms will be utilized to conduct classes, while the Department of Education laid down the groundwork for different modes of learning using other technology, which includes television and radio, aside from online platforms and modular learning;

WHEREAS, despite the shift to online method of classes and modular learning, a number of private schools, colleges and universities are allegedly still charging students with various exorbitant costs in form of miscellaneous fees such as laboratory fees, medical and dental fees, and energy fees, among others, regardless of the fact that students will not be able to use such school facilities;
WHEREAS, private educational institutions published their fees for the School Year 2020-2021 for the information of the parents of students, wherein the fees charged last school year when traditional face-to-face classes were conducted are almost the same as this coming school year;

WHEREAS, the school fees posted by private educational institutions resulted to concerns and dismay coming from the students and their parents since such are burdensome, if not unnecessary, given that the students will be staying and studying at home through online learning platforms, which likewise incurs additional cost for their families;

WHEREAS, it is therefore imperative for the House of Representatives to look into these grievances, especially with the implementation of community quarantine in Metro Manila, entire Luzon and some areas in Visayas which has severely affected the financial capabilities of thousands of families;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives, that the Committee on Basic Education and the Committee on Higher and Technical Education conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the questionable tuition rates and other fees being imposed by some private schools in the primary, secondary and tertiary education levels despite the transition to online learning platforms due to the COVID19 pandemic.

Adopted,

[Signature]

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