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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session  

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 747  

Submitted by the Committee on Labor and Employment on **FEB 1 3 2021**  
Re: House Resolution No. 648  
Recommending its adoption without amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Enrico A. Pineda and Carlos Isagani T. Zarate  

Mr. Speaker:  

The Committee on Labor and Employment, to which was referred House Resolution No. 648, introduced by Representatives Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, Ferdinand Gaite, Eufemia C. Cullamat, Arlene D. Brosas and Sarah Jane I. Elago, entitled:  

**RESOLUTION**  
COMMENDING ACT TEACHERS PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE FRANCE CASTRO FOR BEING AWARDED THE 2019 FEBE ELIZABETH VELASQUEZ TRADE UNION RIGHTS AWARD  

has considered the same and recommends that House Resolution No. 648*, entitled:  

**RESOLUTION**  
COMMENDING ACT TEACHERS PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE FRANCE I. CASTRO FOR BEING AWARDED THE 2019 FEBE ELIZABETH VELASQUEZ TRADE UNION RIGHTS AWARD  

be adopted without amendment, with Representatives Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, Ferdinand Gaite, Eufemia C. Cullamat, Arlene D. Brosas, Sarah Jane I. Elago and Enrico A. Pineda as authors thereof.
HR No. 648 commending Rep. France Castro for the Febe Elizabeth Velasquez Trade Union Rights Award

Respectfully submitted,

ENRICO A. PINEDA
Chairperson
Committee on Labor and Employment

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY
Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 648*

Introduced by Representatives Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, Ferdinand Gaite, Eufemia C. Cullamat, Arlene D. Brosas, Sarah Jane I. Elago and Enrico A. Pineda

RESOLUTION

COMMENDING ACT TEACHERS PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE FRANCE L. CASTRO FOR BEING AWARDED THE 2019 FEBE ELIZABETH VELASQUEZ TRADE UNION RIGHTS AWARD

WHEREAS, a public school teacher for 20 years prior to being a member of the Philippine Congress, ACT Teachers Party-List Representative France L. Castro has fought for the rights and welfare of public and private school teachers for a nationalist, scientific, and mass-based education, and for the economic and political rights of marginalized sectors of Philippine society in general;

WHEREAS, Representative Castro served as Secretary General of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), a militant, nationalist, and progressive organization of teachers and education workers of the country. She was the founding president of the first ever union of public school teachers, the ACT National Capital Region Union which, under her term, secured the first collective negotiation agreement between teachers and government, mandating economic and non-economic benefits for the former;

WHEREAS, during her first term as a member of the House of Representatives, Representative Castro has consistently stood up for substantial salary increases for public school teachers and other government employees, as well as the national minimum wage for workers in the private sector. She filed various measures seeking adequate benefits for teachers and against delays or withholding thereof. She was also among those who spearheaded the passage of the law providing for expanded maternity leave for all women workers and who scored the passage of anti-people laws and policies including the regressive taxes brought by Republic Act 10963 or the “Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN)” law;
WHEREAS, on October 11, 2019, in Utrecht, The Netherlands, the Federatie Nederlandse Vakbeweging (FVN), a federation of Dutch trade unions, honored ACT Teachers Party-List Representative Castro with the Febe Elizabeth Velasquez Trade Union Award, in recognition of her contribution to the ongoing struggle of workers, teachers, and trade unions in the Philippines and around the world;

WHEREAS, the Febe Elizabeth Velasquez Trade Union Award is presented to "pay tribute to trade union leaders who, while working under very difficult circumstances and taking enormous personal risks, resolutely defend trade union rights in countries where those rights are being violated." The Award was named after the Salvadorian trade union activist and Secretary General of the trade union FENASTRAS, Febe Elizabeth Velasquez, who was murdered in 1989 because of her activities for the trade union;

WHEREAS, the Award recognized Representative Castro’s "struggle throughout many years to organize teachers and to fight for basic workers' rights" in the Philippines which the International Trade Union Confederation lists as among the 10 worst countries in the world for workers and trade unionists;

WHEREAS, it also cited her steadfast advocacy for the indigenous people's right to education, which led to her illegal detention, arrest, and harassment (via red-tagging and trumped-up charges courtesy of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)), along with 17 of her fellow members of the National Solidarity Mission for the Lumad in Talaingod, Davao del Norte last November 2018;

WHEREAS, this international recognition of Representative Castro is likewise an international recognition of the severe climate affecting Philippine teachers and education support personnel. They are underpaid yet overworked, forced to struggle for their rights and interests but are responded to with intensified oppression and fascism;

WHEREAS, the Award also comes in the context of the ongoing illegal profiling, intelligence gathering, harassment, and vilification by the PNP, AFP, and National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict against progressive organizations representing public school teachers and academic personnel such as the ACT and its regional unions, and the All-UP Academic Employees Union;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the House of Representatives commend ACT Teachers Party-List Representative France L. Castro for being awarded the 2019 Febe Elizabeth Velasquez Trade Union Award.

Adopted,