



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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 876



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Introduced by **REP. AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.**

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**A RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AND THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES TO IMMEDIATELY SUSPEND IMPLEMENTATION OF DEPED DEPARTMENT ORDER NUMBER 007, SERIES OF 2020, HALT THE PHYSICAL OPENING OF CLASSES ON AUGUST 24, 2020 FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021, AND PROHIBIT FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES AND OTHER PHYSICAL SCHOOL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAININGS IN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS, IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN BASIC EDUCATION AND STATE/LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES OFFERING BASIC EDUCATION DUE TO THE IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) PANDEMIC TO THE PHILIPPINES**

**WHEREAS**, Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution mandates that “the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.” Conversely, Section 3, Article XV of the 1987 Constitution states that “the State shall defend the right of the children to assistance, including special forms of assistance from all forms of neglect, cruelty, abuse and other conditions prejudicial to their development;”

**WHEREAS**, in December 2019, an unknown strain of virus later named and identified as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) originated from the City of Wuhan, the capital of the Province Hubei in Mainland China, has sparked a global anxiety and caused dramatic mischief worldwide because of its pernicious incurable character;

**WHEREAS**, a state of public health emergency has been declared by His Excellency, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, in the entire country as an immediate response to the alarming situation after a case of local transmission of COVID-19 has been confirmed which eventually led to the imposition of a nationwide community quarantine;

**WHEREAS**, to date, confirmed cases of persons affected with COVID-19 worldwide has ballooned to over 4.7 Million individuals, the epicenter of epidemic hub being in the United States of America, Russia, and other European States;

**WHEREAS**, to date, COVID-19 related deaths scored at 300,000 worldwide with local mortality rate of 824 in the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Education (DepEd) through its incumbent Secretary Leonor M. Briones issued Department Order No. 007, Series of 2020, on May 11, 2020, setting the official opening of School Year 2020-2021 on August 24, 2020 and ending on April 30, 2021;

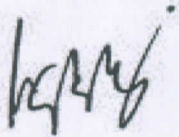
**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Government and the Department of Health (DOH) has acknowledged that as of this date, there is no specific treatment for or vaccine against the deadly COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, with the growing threat which is still present and imminent to the safety of our citizens, especially our children, it is imperative that we take all possible precautions and preventive actions to stem local transmission, especially to our learners;

**WHEREAS**, the House of the Representatives is cognizant and mindful of the avowed policy to protect the citizenry in all forms of harm, be it threatened or actual ones;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it hereby resolved by the House of the Representatives, to direct the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases to immediately suspend the implementation of DepEd Department Order No. 007, Series of 2020, halt the physical opening of classes, and prohibit face-to-face classes and other physical school events and activities, including technical vocational education and skills training in senior high school, in all public and private educational institutions in basic education and state/local universities and colleges offering basic education, until and unless a vaccine against COVID-19 has been discovered and included in the Philippine National Drug Formulary.

*Adopted,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Briones', is written below the word 'Adopted,'.