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INTRODUCED BY THE HONORABLE MAR ROXAS

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A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO LOOK INTO THE STATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY PARTICULARLY THE QUALITY OF PROGRAMS OFFERED BY HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN RELATION TO THE PASSING RATE OF THEIR GRADUATES IN LICENSURE EXAMS AS WELL AS THE EMPLOYABILITY OF THEIR GRADUATES VIS-A-VIS THE TUITION AND OTHER FEES THAT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS CHARGE THEIR STUDENTS, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT'S STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO BROADEN ACCESS TO QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to "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, Paragraph 3, Section 2, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution further mandates the State to "establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged";

WHEREAS, data from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shows that as of school year 2007-2008, there are 1,523 Private Higher Education Institutions, 1,262 of which are non-sectarian and 261 are sectarian, and of the 529 Public Higher Education Institutions, 110 are state universities and colleges, 326 are satellite campuses of state universities and colleges, 77 are local universities and colleges, and 16 are specialized government schools;

WHEREAS, according to CHED, as of school year 2007-2008, total enrollment in Higher Education Institutions is 2,565,534, out of which 877,712 are in public schools, while 1,687,822 are in private schools;

WHEREAS, the CHED further reports that, as of school year 2007-2008, Medicine and Health Related courses have the highest number of enrollment at

648,622 followed by Teacher Education at 327,173, Engineering and Technology at 298,951, and Information Technology related courses at 260,682;

WHEREAS, during the same school year, passing rate in licensure examinations of medicine and health related professions was at 46.62%, teacher education was at 28.28%, and engineering and technology at 38.46%;

WHEREAS, according to the Commission on Audit's (COA) Report on CHED for 2007, "in the implementation of CHED's program phase-out activities on poor Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) passing performance, no school offering nursing programs has ever been closed in the exercise of CHED's regulatory authority, thereby allowing low performing schools to continue offering the course to the detriment of their students";

WHEREAS, the COA also reported that "8 private tertiary schools continued to accept enrollees for programs that have already been ordered closed by the CHED effective SY 2005-2006 due to poor performance in PRC licensure examinations";

WHEREAS, based on various industry surveys, only 2-7% of college graduate applicants to ICT jobs are accepted, and those who are accepted are still required to undergo 3 months of in-house training before becoming fully productive;

WHEREAS, a Manpower Planning Survey conducted by the Personnel Management Association of the Philippine in 2006 reports that there is much difficulty hiring for entry-level positions in accounting and finance, sales, customer service and certain IT and engineering positions largely because of the candidates' lack of confidence, inability to display sufficient English oral communication skills, and poor analytical thinking;

WHEREAS, the inability of some graduates to pass licensure exams and to obtain jobs after graduation without further training, points to an inadequacy in the formation they receive from some higher education institutions;

WHEREAS, aside from the issue of the quality of the education they receive, students and their parents are also faced with the rising costs of tertiary education;

WHEREAS, according to CHED, private higher education institutions charge their students Php300 to Php2,000 per unit, while public higher education institutions charge their students an average of Php100 per unit, with some even providing higher education for free;

WHEREAS, students who have the competence to pursue higher education cannot do so because of financial constraints;

WHEREAS, student financial assistance programs that provide targeted subsidies to financially strapped students are known to be a more efficient mechanism to broaden access to tertiary education than across-the-board tuition fee caps;

WHEREAS, according to the Commission on Audit's (COA) Report on CHED for 2007, CHED was provided Php549 Million for student financial assistance

programs which benefited 67,377 broken down as follows: scholarship programs had 40,406 beneficiaries, grant-in-aid programs had 26,213 beneficiaries, and the student loan program has 758 beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, the same COA report states that “in seven (7) CHED Regional Offices, only 3 percent or P2 million was actually collected out of a total P65 million loans due from Study-Now-Pay-Later Plan student-borrowers mainly due to the ineffective monitoring and collection system, thereby restricting the turn-over rate and availability of funds for qualified and deserving students”;

WHEREAS, the ineffective implementation of the student loan program hinders the sustainability and expansion of such a scheme thereby limiting the number of beneficiaries that can be serviced by the program;

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED*, that the Senate direct the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture to look into the state of higher education in the country particularly the quality of programs offered by higher education institutions in relation to the passing rate of their graduates in licensure exams as well as the employability of their graduates vis-à-vis the tuition and other fees that higher education institutions charge their students, and the implementation of government’s student financial assistance program for tertiary education, with the end in view of determining appropriate measures to broaden access to quality higher education and for other purposes.

Adopted,



M. A. R. ROXAS  
Senator