

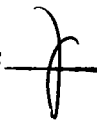
SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'16 JUL 20 P 4:39

SENATE  
S.B. No. 705

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

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**AN ACT REQUIRING ALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO PROVIDE  
SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO AT LEAST FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE STUDENT POPULATION  
WHO ARE POOR BUT DESERVING STUDENTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Rusty Quintana grew up as a street child in Cagayan De Oro, and was unable to finish elementary and high school, instead finishing his basic education through the Alternative Learning System (ALS) Program of the Department of Education. Through his hard work, perseverance and talents, Rusty obtained a scholarship at the prestigious Xavier University and obtained his degree last year.

Rusty represents the many Filipino students who despite their talent, intelligence and determination, are unable to pursue higher education due to a lack of funds.

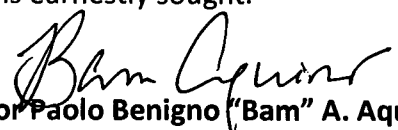
This bill proposes that all colleges and universities be mandated to provide scholarships to at least 5% of their total student population who are unable to afford secondary education but are deserving of the support.

In this way, post-secondary education in any institution can be made accessible to all students regardless of their financial situation.

By enacting this bill, our nation will uphold Article XIV, Section 1 of the Constitution which provides that the State "protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education" and "take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all."

This mandate will serve as an incentive for low-income families and students to strive for excellence in their studies, having a viable pathway to an excellent postsecondary education in any college institution. Filipinos across the nation will be empowered by this legislation which will ultimately serve as a key to rising out of poverty.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV


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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress  
assembled:*

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall also be known as the "*Scholarship for the Poor*  
2 *Act.*"

3           **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to give priority to Education,  
4 protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take  
5 appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Towards this end, scholarships  
6 grants shall be provided to poor but deserving Filipino students in all colleges and universities.

7           **SEC. 3. Nature and Extent of Scholarship Grants.** - Scholarship grants are hereby  
8 granted in the form of free tuition to at least five percent (5%) of the student population in all  
9 colleges and universities. The scholarship shall be awarded to poor, but deserving students.

10  
11           **SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days from the  
12 effectivity of this Act, the UniFAST Board shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations  
13 for the effective implementation of this Act.

14           **SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or  
15 other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
16 accordingly.

17           **SEC. 6. Separability Clause.** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
18 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in  
19 force and effect.

20           **SEC. 7. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) after its publication in the  
21 Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

*Approved,*