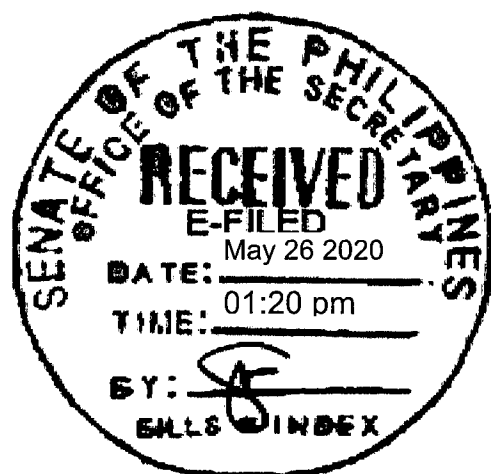


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



**SENATE**  
**P.S. RES. No. 424**

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Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

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**RESOLUTION**  
**URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19**  
**PANDEMIC ON OUR YOUTH**

1 WHEREAS, since the novel coronavirus now known as COVID-19, was first  
2 identified in Wuhan province of China in December of 2019, millions of people have  
3 been affected internationally with the disease killing more than 300,000 as of date;

4 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in severe socioeconomic  
5 impact globally, with the youth especially vulnerable to the disruptions caused in  
6 education and employment on top of the pandemic's impact on health;

7 WHEREAS, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
8 (UNESCO) data show that 191 countries, including the Philippines, closed educational  
9 institutions in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 which in turn hit almost 70%  
10 of the world's student population. In the Philippines, per UNESCO data, the country-  
11 wide school closure affected 28 million learners<sup>1</sup>;

12 WHEREAS, per recent reports the budget for different education agencies and  
13 institutions, amounting to almost 45 Billion Pesos, were cut in order to fund the  
14 government's health and social protection programs to address the pandemic<sup>2</sup>;

15 WHEREAS, according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social  
16 Affairs, without targeted policy intervention, it is likely that the youth will be  
17 disproportionately affected by a global recession, with a higher percentage of young

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<sup>1</sup> <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse>

<sup>2</sup> <https://business.inquirer.net/297470/big-cuts-in-infra-education-budgets-to-fund-covid-19-dole-outs-medical-response>

1 people being unemployed compared to adults, and a slower uptake of employment by  
2 young people during the recovery<sup>3</sup>;

3 WHEREAS, the International Labour Organization identified five reasons why  
4 the youth are severely affected by economic fallout in this pandemic: 1) difficulty in  
5 finding new jobs due to their lesser experience and few connections they have; 2)  
6 with three out of four belonging in the informal sector, it is more likely that they have  
7 little to no savings and hence cannot afford unemployment for longer durations; 3)  
8 the youth who are part-time workers have little or no social protection such as paid  
9 leave or pensions; 4) many of them are employed in the most hard-hit businesses  
10 such as retail, accommodation and food sectors; and finally 5) they are more at risk  
11 from being replaced due to automation;

12 WHEREAS, the coronavirus pandemic is likewise having ill effects on the health  
13 of the young. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, outbreaks  
14 can be stressful for both adults and children and may cause changes in sleep or eating  
15 patterns, worsening of chronic health problems and mental health conditions<sup>4</sup>;

16 WHEREAS, this new normal scenario poses challenges for the youth, both with  
17 existing and no prior mental health issues, because of the additional stress of missing  
18 the structure of school, dealing with illness or loss of income in the family and coping  
19 with absence of parents who are essential workers. According to a Pew Research  
20 Center survey, people ages 18 to 29 were more likely than any other age group to  
21 experience high psychological distress when thinking about the outbreak<sup>5</sup>;

22 WHEREAS, young people represent a valuable resource and network during  
23 this pandemic as the youth are more connected through technology, media and the  
24 internet and can be vital in disseminating accurate information on COVID-19 and  
25 support information sharing on risk reduction, national preparedness and response  
26 efforts<sup>6</sup>;

27 WHEREAS, around the world, governments and the private sector have been  
28 partnering with the youth to create initiatives to support their communities including

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/news/2020/05/covid-19/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://time.com/5828492/teens-coronavirus/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19\\_Preparedness\\_and\\_Response\\_-\\_UNFPA\\_Interim\\_Technical\\_Briefs\\_Adolescents\\_and\\_Young\\_People\\_23\\_March\\_2020.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19_Preparedness_and_Response_-_UNFPA_Interim_Technical_Briefs_Adolescents_and_Young_People_23_March_2020.pdf)

1 youth-driven innovation hubs that are supporting start-ups develop technological  
2 solutions to address the effects COVID-19, as more transactions shift online<sup>7</sup>;

3 WHEREAS, over 400 youth leaders from more than 100 schools and 35  
4 organizations convened, during the *Sulong Pilipinas* Forum held by the Department of  
5 Finance, to create policy recommendations that can help the nation recover from the  
6 COVID-19 crisis<sup>8</sup>;

7 WHEREAS, among the actionable proposals during the *Sulong Pilipinas* Forum  
8 were: ensuring food security through cooperation between the Department of  
9 Agriculture and local governments; improvement of the internet infrastructure to ease  
10 the continuity of education; expediting the delivery of cash aid and other social  
11 protection programs through the implementation of the National ID system; and  
12 ramping up preparedness for the “new normal” by increasing testing capacity,  
13 providing workers with efficient transportation, creating employment for displaced  
14 workers, assisting adversely affected industries such as the tourism sector, and  
15 supporting micro, small and medium enterprises capitalize on new business  
16 opportunities brought about by the pandemic;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, as it is  
18 hereby resolved, to urge the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in  
19 aid of legislation, to determine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the youth  
20 and design policies to effectively safeguard their interests and future as the country  
21 coordinates its recovery from the pandemic.

*Adopted,*



**SONNY ANGARA**

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/news/2020/05/covid-19/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.philstar.com/business/2020/05/19/2014869/youth-leaders-present-post-covid-policy-recommendations>