

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

SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. **480**



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN**  
**INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE QUESTIONABLE TUITION**  
**FEE RATES ASSESSED BY SOME PRIVATE SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND**  
**UNIVERSITIES DESPITE THE TRANSITION TO ONLINE LEARNING DUE TO**  
**THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

***WHEREAS***, Article II, Section 17 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "*The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.*" Moreover, Article XIV, Section 1 states that, "*The State shall 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***, on 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 as a "*pandemic*" and, on 17 March 2020, Philippine President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, through Proclamation No. 929, declared a state of calamity in the country due to the sharp increase in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases;

***WHEREAS***, until a vaccine is made available, the pandemic is forcing on everyone a "*new normal*" where people need to practice social distancing and adapt to other changes in order to prevent the spread of the virus;

***WHEREAS***, education institutions are adapting to an online learning set-up wherein an alternative approach to a face-to-face classroom setting is devised where online platforms will be utilized to conduct classes and the Department of Education (DepEd) laying the groundwork for a different kind of learning using technology including radio, television, online classes, and modular learning;

***WHEREAS***, despite the shift to online classes and modular learning, some private schools, colleges, and universities are allegedly still charging students with various miscellaneous fees such as laboratory fees, library fees, internet fees, medical

and dental fees, and energy fees, among others despite the fact that the students will not be able to use the school's facilities;

**WHEREAS**, concerns and sentiments are being raised by students and their parents since such are unnecessary and burdensome because students will now be studying from home through online platforms;

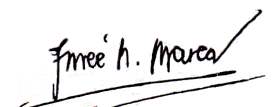
**WHEREAS**, an example of such incident is when the University of the East (UE) Student Council wrote a letter to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) complaining about the UE's tuition fee rate stating, *"All the corresponding fees have still been included in the total enrollment fee with their amounts closely resembling the expenses that would have been incurred in regular face-to-face learning. Total tuition, in general of many courses, is still placed in the P50,000.00 to P60,000.00 range for online classes"*;

**WHEREAS**, similar grievances are posted online by concerned parents such as Atty. Emillie Espina's open letter to the University of Santo Tomas, through a Facebook post, by stating: *"There will be no electric consumption for the University considering the use of online classes. What is the laboratory fee for? No laboratory use for online learning. What is the library fee for? My son cannot physically use the library. Neither can he access the library materials online. What is the medical and dental fee for? My son will not even be examined for medical and dental considering that he is below twenty-one (21) years old and is not allowed under the IATF rules to go outside of our house. What is the registration fee for? Student registration is necessary in all the students' enrollment, thus, this expense should not be passed on to the students"*;

**WHEREAS**, given the pressing concerns and dismay of students and parents, the DepEd and CHED should immediately look into and act on this issue since students will be unable to use and benefit such facilities, thus, making the students unjustly pay for unnecessary and unconscionable fees;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, directing the appropriate Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the questionable tuition fee rates assessed by some private schools, colleges, and universities despite the transition to online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Adopted*



**IMEE R. MARCOS**