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SENATE  
P.S. Res. No. 168

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Introduced by **SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS**

**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY RELATIONS,  
AND GENDER EQUALITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO  
THE REPORTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMMITTED BY EDUCATORS WITH THE  
END IN VIEW OF CREATING SAFE SPACES FOR STUDENTS THAT ARE CONDUCTIVE  
FOR THEIR LEARNING AND MAKING PERPETRATORS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE  
CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS, CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE  
SAFE SPACES ACT**

**WHEREAS**, last 29 August 2022, the Department of Education (DEPED) stated that they are investigating reports involving harassment and sexual advances made by six teachers at the Bacoor National High School in Cavite<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, according to DEPED spokesperson Michael Poa, these teachers were not given any teaching load and are currently on floating status<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, some of the evidence shared by the survivors show how alarming and disturbing the advances made by the teachers, some of which are married. In the survivors' screenshot posted online, married teachers can be seen pestering their students into illegal and immoral relationships despite the clear, explicit, and unmistakable refusal and pushback from the students<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, in another piece of evidence, the teacher is seen as gently laying down the foundation in procuring a student's sexual favors in exchange for money<sup>4</sup>. After the student's refusal, the teacher masked the harassment by appearing to be concerned, telling his student that 'at least now alam mo na paano sumagot... di lahat ng makakausap mo ay matino';

**WHEREAS**, as of this writing, it is not clear if the investigations being conducted by the Department involve criminal aspect or if it is focused exclusively on internal administrative proceedings;

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, reports of sexual harassment from teachers have surfaced online involving numerous high school and higher education institutions and involving multiple teachers. Students and survivors have bravely come forward in the #DoBetter callout that saw some cases, particularly in the St. Theresa's College in Quezon City, reaching resolutions favoring the survivors<sup>5</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, as recent as July 2022, the Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA) came into public scrutiny for numerous cases of sexual harassment reported by students and alumni;

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/nation/deped-probes-sexual-abuse-reports-teachers-school-cavite/>

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/RadyoBanderaRoxas100.9FM/posts/pfbid02hw886ayQUbtX9H9YHswFa6nHjhBcsZcHHCxKS29hjZx4ku1AHJn9dK6VvLv3Lml>

<sup>4</sup> *ibid*

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/investigative/when-school-not-safe-victims-stories-teacher-groomed/>

**WHEREAS**, the prompt response on the sexual harassment allegations and their reported zero tolerance of the DEPED is a promising step in the right direction in dismantling the culture of abuse perpetrated educational institutions;

**WHEREAS**, sexual harassment cases brought up to educational institutions' notice must be resolved in a transparent, pro-active, and timely manner in order to ensure the swift delivery of justice. Schools must remain as safe havens for students;

**WHEREAS**, during a hearing of the Senate's Committee on Basic Education, Mr. Zuniega of the PHSA underplayed the culture of abuse that was bravely called out by its students and alumni. In it he said that 'hindi ko na-experience ang ganitong kultura. So, maaring iyong culture of abuse na sinasabi ay isang pananaw po ng sumulat na iyon'<sup>6</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, teachers and perpetrators who harass students have no business remaining in schools in the company of young students and must be made to answer to the consequences of their actions. School administrators who prioritize saving face instead of prompt and transparent case resolutions must be reminded of their responsibility to the students;

**WHEREAS**, instances of abuse and sexual harassment in schools committed by teachers and school personnel have been transpiring with almost regularity. This creates more urgency for the effective, faithful, and timely implementation of the Safe Spaces Law in our schools to avoid cases of sexual harassment and to weed out perpetrators among the school ranks;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to urge the Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations, and Gender Equality to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the reports of sexual harassment committed by educators with the end in view of creating safe spaces for students that are conducive for their learning and making perpetrators accountable for the consequences of their actions, consistent with the provisions of the Safe Spaces Act.

Adopted,

  
**RISA HONTIVEROS**  
Senator

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<sup>6</sup> Senate Committee on Basic Education Hearing, 19 August 2022