

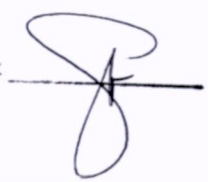


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

'19 NOV -4 P2:18

SENATE

S. No. 1130

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR FULL TUITION SUBSIDY TO MEDICAL STUDENTS  
ENROLLED IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCs) AMENDING  
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS  
THE "UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT", AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Explanatory Note

One of the major reasons for the perennial shortage of doctors serving the country is the prohibitive cost of medical education. The costs in top private medical schools in the country range from P40,000 to P150,000 per semester, while a first-year medical student's tuition fee in a state medical school costs P24,000 to P88,500 per year – excluding living expenses and other necessities.

In the 2018 General Appropriations Act (GAA), through the initiative of Congress, cash grants in the amount of P250 Million was provided to subsidize the tuition fee of the 1,700 medical students enrolled in the eight State Universities and Colleges (CGMS-SUCs) offering the medical program. This initiative was a response to the continuing lack of doctors in the country caused by the high cost of medical education, overseas migration and brain drain.

In the 2019 GAA, the budget for the CGMS-SUCs was slashed to P167 Million despite the number of medical scholars increasing to 1,932.

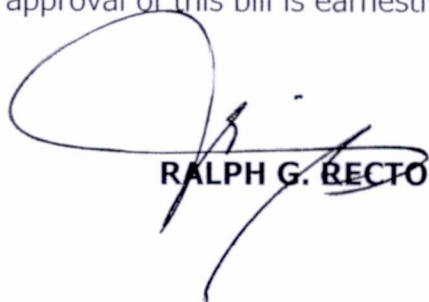
However, under the proposed 2020 National Expenditure Program, the budget for the CGMS-SUCs was automatically deleted because of a Department of

Budget and Management policy that any additional programs inserted by Congress during the period of budget deliberations or bicameral meeting will be discontinued the following year. This clear lack of permanence of some state-funded scholarships leaves the continuity of the education of student beneficiaries in jeopardy.

This bill, therefore, will provide an institutional mechanism for the continuity of the tuition subsidy to the medical program by including it in the thrust of the recently passed law, Republic Act No. 10931, which provides for free tuition and other school fees in tertiary education.

This scheme will also make way for the envisioned sustained human resource deployment in the public health care system as student-grantees will have to render service in the country as part of their public service responsibility. This will ensure the steady and sustainable supply of medical doctors to fill in the present gaps as well as address the anticipated increase in demand in the coming years.

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



**RALPH G. RECTO**

/ejcv

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
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Office of the Secretary

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**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1       Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Full Tuition Subsidy*  
2 *to Medical Students Enrolled in SUCs Act*".

3       Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*– It is hereby declared policy of the State to  
4 protect and promote the rights of all students to quality education at all levels and  
5 undertake appropriate health manpower development and research responsive to  
6 the country's health needs and problems. For this purpose, the government shall  
7 institutionalize scholarship programs for deserving and qualified individuals that will  
8 establish access for them to pursue education and train in the field of medicine, and  
9 shall formulate and implement such policies and programs to systematically  
10 integrate these individuals, upon qualifying as doctors of medicine, into the public  
11 health care system.

12       Sec. 3. A new Section 6 shall be inserted after Section 5 of Republic Act No.  
13 10931 which shall read as follows:

14       **"SEC. 6. FULL TUITION SUBSIDY TO MEDICAL**  
15 **STUDENTS ENROLLED IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND**  
16 **COLLEGES (SUCs). – ALL FILIPINO MEDICAL**  
17 **STUDENTS, BOTH NEW AND CONTINUING, WHO ARE**



1 ENROLLED IN THE DOCTOR OF MEDICINE PROGRAM  
2 IN ANY OF THE SUCs OFFERING THE PROGRAM  
3 SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE FULL TUITION  
4 SUBSIDY BASED ON THE ACTUAL TUITION FEE OF  
5 THEIR RESPECTIVE SUC: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE  
6 MEDICAL STUDENT BENEFICIARY SHALL PASS THE  
7 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS WHERE THE STUDENT  
8 INTENDS TO ENROLL IN."

9 Sec. 4. . A new Section 7 shall be inserted after the new Section 6 of  
10 Republic Act No. 10931 which shall read as follows:

11 "SEC. 7. *CONDITIONS FOR THE FULL TUITION*  
12 *SUBSIDY TO MEDICAL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN*  
13 *SUCs. – THE MEDICAL STUDENT BENEFICIARY SHALL*  
14 *MEET THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONALITIES TO*  
15 *AVAIL THE FULL TUITION SUBSIDY:*

- 16 a. MAINTAIN A GENERAL WEIGHTED AVERAGE  
17 OF AT LEAST A PASSING GRADE;  
18 b. CARRY A REGULAR ACADEMIC LOAD AND  
19 COMPLETE THE DEGREE WITHIN THE PERIOD  
20 ALLOWED IN THE UNIVERSITY;  
21 c. AVAIL OF ONE GOVERNMENT-FUNDED  
22 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THAT PROVIDES  
23 TUITION FEE SUBSIDY;  
24 d. RENDER SUC-APPROVED RETURN SERVICE  
25 PROGRAM (RSP) FOR EVERY YEAR OF FULL  
26 TUITION SUBSIDY RECEIVED."

27 Sec. 5. A new Section 8 shall be inserted after the new Section 7 of Republic  
28 Act No. 10931 which shall read as follows:

29 "SEC. 8. *RETURN SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR MEDICAL*  
30 *STUDENT BENEFICIARIES. – THE MEDICAL STUDENT*  
31 *BENEFICIARY SHALL RENDER A RETURN SERVICE*  
32 *WORK CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 26 OF REPUBLIC*

1           **ACT NO. 11223 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**  
2           **"UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE ACT": PROVIDED, THAT**  
3           **THE MANDATORY RETURN SERVICE WORK MUST**  
4           **START WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR FROM PASSING THE**  
5           **PHYSICIAN LICENSURE EXAMINATION AND MUST BE**  
6           **COMPLETED WITHIN EIGHT (8) YEARS FROM**  
7           **GRADUATION.**

8           **A BENEFICIARY WHO FAILS OR REFUSES TO**  
9           **SERVE IN A GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION, UNIT OR**  
10          **AGENCY WITHIN THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH CARE**  
11          **SYSTEM SHALL BE REQUIRED TO PAY TWICE THE**  
12          **FULL COST OF THE TUITION SUBSIDY, INCLUDING**  
13          **OTHER BENEFITS AND EXPENSES INCURRED BY**  
14          **REASON OF PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHOLARSHIP**  
15          **PROGRAM PROVIDED HEREIN. IN CASE OF NON-**  
16          **PAYMENT, THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION**  
17          **COMMISSION (PRC) SHALL DENY THE RENEWAL OF**  
18          **THE PHYSICIAN'S LICENSE.**

19          Sec. 6. The succeeding sections of Republic Act No. 10931 are hereby  
20          renumbered accordingly.

21          Sec. 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the effective  
22          implementation of this Act shall be included in the succeeding General Appropriations  
23          Act.

24          Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety days (90) after  
25          the effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department  
26          of Health (DOH), PRC and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall  
27          promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this  
28          Act.

29          Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* - If, for any reason, any provision of this Act or  
30          any part thereof shall be held unconstitutional and invalid, the other parts or  
31          provisions of this Act, which are not affected thereby, shall remain in full force and  
32          effect.

1           Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, resolutions, orders or  
2 ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended  
3 or modified accordingly.

4           Sec. 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
5 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the *Official*  
6 *Gazette.*

          Approved,