

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



SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2495

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Introduced by Senator FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN

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AN ACT

CREATING THE *BAWAT PAMILYA MAY COLLEGE GRADWEYT* PROGRAM, 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

Under the 1987 Constitution, it is the responsibility of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

Prior to the passage of Republic Act No. 10931 or the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act," only two out of five high school graduates in the country are able to pursue college education. However, even with the passage of said Act, socio-economic concerns still prevent students from low-income families from pursuing and/or completing tertiary education. The COVID-19 pandemic and the shift to online learning has further exacerbated these concerns and prevented thousands of students from continuing or pursuing their college education.

In 2017, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority's (PSA) Annual Poverty Indicators Survey<sup>1</sup> shows that about nine percent or 3.6 million of the estimated 39.2 million Filipinos aged 6 to 24 years old were out-of-school children and youth (OSCY). OSCYs refer to family member aged 6 to 14 years old who are not attending formal school, and family members aged 15 to 24 years old who are out of school, not gainfully employed, and have not finished college or post-secondary course.

Of the 3.6 million OSCYs in 2017, 83.1 % were 16 to 24 years old – the age at which young Filipinos should be pursuing tertiary education or working. About half of the OSCYs belong to families whose income fall at the bottom 30 percent based on their per capita income. Considering the educational interruptions and impacts on employment

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<sup>1</sup> Philippine Statistics Authority. *Press Release on the 2017 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey*. Released on 6 June 2018. Available at <https://psa.gov.ph/income-expenditure/apis/title/Nine%20Percent%20of%20Filipinos%20Aged%206%20to%2024%20years%20are%20Out%20of%20School%20%28Results%20from%20the%202017%20Annual%20Poverty%20Indicators%20Survey%29>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

brought about by the pandemic, the plight of OSCYs may have worsened in the last two years.

This proposed measure seeks to deliver on the Constitutional obligation of the State to protect and promote the rights of Filipino students to quality education, especially those from the poorest and most vulnerable families. To this end, this measure creates the *Bawat Pamilya May College Gradweyt* Program, which shall ensure that at least one (1) member of every eligible Filipino family shall be accorded the full support of the State to pursue and successfully complete college education.

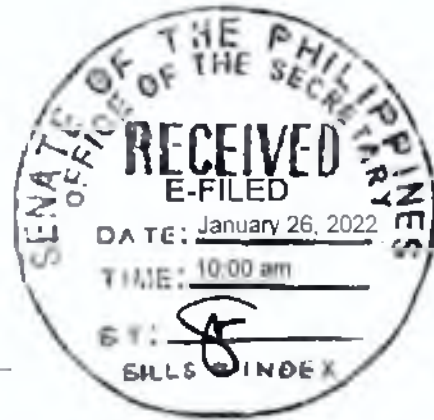
The beneficiaries of this Program shall be entitled to receive full tuition and other school fees subsidies and other allowances, as provided in Sections 4 and 7 of the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act." Priority shall be given to first generation college students, students who are part of households included in the Department of Social Welfare and Development's *Listahanan 2.0*, and students who are not part of the *Listahanan 2.0* but belong to low-income households.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francis N. Rangilinan', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

FRANCIS N. RANGILINAN

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AN ACT  
CREATING THE *BAWAT PAMILYA MAY COLLEGE GRADWEYT PROGRAM*,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION  
ACT", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1       **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "*Bawat Pamilya May College*  
2 *Gradweyt Act*".

3       **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect  
4 and promote the rights of all students to quality education at all levels. The State shall  
5 likewise ensure that students from eligible Filipino families, especially the poorest and  
6 most vulnerable, shall be given utmost priority and adequate support to successfully  
7 pursue and complete tertiary education.

8       **SEC. 3. "*Bawat Pamilya May College Gradweyt Program.*"** – A new Section 8 shall  
9 be inserted after Section 7 of Republic Act No. 10931 which shall read as follows:

10               **"SEC. 8. *BAWAT PAMILYA MAY COLLEGE GRADWEYT***  
11               **PROGRAM. – RELATIVE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF**  
12               **SECTION 4 ON FREE HIGHER EDUCATION IN SUCS AND**  
13               **LUCS AND SECTION 7 ON TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY**  
14               **(TES) FOR FILIPINO STUDENTS OF THIS ACT, THERE IS**  
15               **HEREBY CREATED A *BAWAT PAMILYA MAY COLLEGE***  
16               ***GRADUATE PROGRAM* TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE**

1 UNIFIED STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM FOR  
2 TERTIARY EDUCATION (UNIFAST) BOARD. THIS  
3 PROGRAM SHALL ENSURE THAT AT LEAST ONE (1)  
4 MEMBER OF EVERY ELIGIBLE FILIPINO FAMILY SHALL BE  
5 ASSISTED TO PURSUE AND SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE  
6 COLLEGE EDUCATION.

7 PRIORITY SHALL BE GIVEN TO FIRST-GENERATION  
8 COLLEGE STUDENTS, STUDENTS WHO ARE PART OF  
9 HOUSEHOLDS INCLUDED IN THE *LISTAHANAN 2.0*, AND  
10 STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT PART OF THE *LISTAHANAN 2.0*  
11 BUT BELONG TO LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS.

12 BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROGRAM SHALL BE  
13 ENTITLED TO RECEIVE FULL TUITION AND OTHER  
14 SCHOOL FEES SUBSIDIES AND ALLOWANCES, AS  
15 PROVIDED FOR IN SECTIONS 4 AND 7 OF THIS ACT.

16 THE UNIFAST BOARD SHALL PROMULGATE THE  
17 APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES AND MONITOR THE  
18 PROGRESS OF STUDENT BENEFICIARIES UNTIL THEY  
19 HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED TERTIARY  
20 EDUCATION."

21 SEC. 4. Sections 8 to 12 of Republic Act No. 10931 are hereby renumbered  
22 accordingly.

23 SEC. 5. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 10931 is hereby amended and renumbered  
24 to read as follows:

25 "Sec. ~~13~~ 14. *Expansion of the UniFAST Board.* - The UniFAST

26 Board shall be expanded to include the following

1 (A) THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
2 SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) AS  
3 EX OFFICIO MEMBER;

4 ~~[(a)]~~ (B) President of the Philippine Association of State  
5 Universities and Colleges as Member;

6 ~~[(b)]~~ (C) Chairman of the Coordinating Council of Private  
7 Educational Associations as Member;

8 ~~[(c)]~~ (D) President of the Association of Local Colleges and  
9 Universities as Member;

10 ~~[(d)]~~ (E) President of the GSIS as a non-voting Member; and

11 ~~[(e)]~~ (F) President of the SSS as a non-voting Member.

12 x x x

13 SEC. 6. The succeeding sections of Republic Act No. 10931 are hereby renumbered  
14 accordingly.

15 SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the effective implementation  
16 of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

17 SEC. 8. *Reportorial Requirement.* - The UniFAST Board shall submit an annual  
18 report to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Universal Access to Tertiary  
19 Education of all acts performed pursuant to this Act, particularly on the status of  
20 implementation, targets and actual accomplishments, and other relevant data and  
21 information.

22 SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the  
23 date of effectivity of this Act, the UniFAST Board, in consultation with relevant  
24 stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to  
25 ensure the efficient and effective implementation of this Act.

1           **SEC. 10. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or  
2 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full  
3 force and effect.

4           **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive and administrative orders, rules,  
5 and regulations inconsistent with the foregoing provisions are hereby repealed or  
6 modified accordingly.

7           **SEC. 12. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
8 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

*Approved,*