

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

7 JUL -2 P5 '11

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 535

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 1 of Article XIV of the Constitution mandates 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."

Studies show that the intellectual capacity of women has a direct correlation to societal development. This is being manifested in part by the fact that educated mothers can ensure that her children would learn the basic literacy skills needed for a productive life. Thus, lack of opportunity not only stunts the educational and social growth of women but inevitably contributes to a country's slow development.

Despite earnest efforts in the past to provide better opportunities for women in education, women in both rural and urban areas have remained largely marginalized and bereft opportunities to improve and educate themselves.

This bill therefore seeks to create scholarship grant for women. Hence, its immediate passage into law is earnestly sought.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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**AN ACT
PROVIDING HIGHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN,
ESTABLISHING A WOMEN'S HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the "Women's Higher Education Act of 2007."

SEC 2. Declaration of Policy. The State recognizes the special role of women in societal development. Hence, there is a compelling need for the State to provide better higher education opportunities for women not only as a matter of right but because of their peculiar role as potential teachers of their children.

SEC 3. Scholarship Fund. A special scholarship fund to be known as the "Women's Higher Education Scholarship Fund" is hereby created to be administered by the Commission on Higher Education.

SEC 4. Application. The scholarship fund shall be made available to all qualified graduating Filipino female high school students through a competitive process whose rules and regulations shall be formulated by a selection committee within the Commission on Higher Education. Criteria for the selection process shall include intellectual aptitude as well as financial need.

SEC 5. Tuition and Allowances. The amount of tuition fees and allowances per student shall be determined by the State institution where the student shall be enrolled.

SEC 6. Appropriations. The amount of Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the Women's Higher Education Scholarship Fund to be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC 7. Repealing Clause. All acts, rules and regulations contrary or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 8. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,