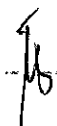


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SENATE

S. NO. 170

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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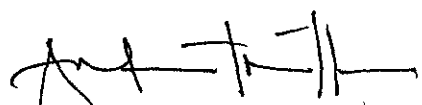
### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV Section 1 of the Constitution provides 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. However, recent data prove contrary to this policy.

Out of the six million students who were able to enter high school, only 2.4 million or 60 percent entered college in 2002-2004. While graduation rate among high school students was pegged at 90.62 percent in that year, cohort survival rate from 1<sup>st</sup> year to 4<sup>th</sup> year college was only 63.88 percent. Completion rate was even lower - only 58.62 percent.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, in June 2004, the Wallace report pegged college dropout rate at a staggering all-time high of 73 percent. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) National Commission of the Philippines, on the other hand, reported a measly 22 percent overall student survival from 1st to 4th year college.<sup>2</sup>

The continuing increase in the cost of tertiary education, inadequate government expenditure on education, continuous surge in oil and food prices compounded by the looming economic recession will only seek to exacerbate this alarming statistics unless firm political will is exercised and appropriate state intervention is put in place. In this light, this measure seeks to provide scholastically deserving graduates of public and state-supported highschools the opportunity to enjoy their right to higher education and subsequently, a better quality of life. It is hoped that the passage of this measure shall see more poor but deserving high school graduates, who view high school as a dead end, having access to higher education.

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



ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV  
Senator

<sup>1</sup> Information retrieved from: [http://www.bulatlat.com/news/5-9/5-9-graduation\\_printer.html](http://www.bulatlat.com/news/5-9/5-9-graduation_printer.html). Retrieved on 5 February 2009.

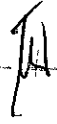
<sup>2</sup> Information retrieved from: <http://www.gmanews.tv/story/99862/High-tuition-has-forced-many-to-abandon-college-dreams>. Retrieved on 5 February 2009.

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SENATE

S. NO. 170

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AN ACT  
GRANTING COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDENTS WHO GRADUATED AS VALEDICTORIANS AND SALUTATORIANS FROM PUBLIC AND STATE-SUPPORTED HIGHSCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1           **SEC. 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to establish  
2 and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other  
3 incentives which shall be available to deserving students in public schools, especially to the  
4 underprivileged. Toward this end, the State shall provide financial support or assistance to  
5 qualified honor graduates from public and state-supported secondary schools in the country.

6  
7           **SEC. 2. Coverage.** – All state colleges and universities under the governance of the  
8 Commission on Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as CHED) are hereby mandated to  
9 grant four or five-year college scholarship, depending on the degree program, to the top two  
10 graduates or the graduates who garnered the top two highest overall grade average from the  
11 public and private secondary day and night schools in the country. These graduates could be  
12 honored as the valedictorian, salutatorian, or first, second as the case may be.

13           The qualified scholar shall be entitled to avail of a two (2) or three (3) year  
14 Technical/Vocational course or any four or five-year degree course in any educational institution  
15 of his/her choice.

16  
17           **SEC. 3. Qualifications.** – To qualify for the aforementioned scholarship program,  
18 hereinafter referred to as the Program, the graduate must:

- 19           a. be citizens of the Philippines, whose parents (natural or adoptive)/ or legal guardians  
20           are residents and registered voters of the country; and  
21           b. have graduated from any public or state-supported secondary school of the country.

1  
2       **SEC. 4. Benefits.** – The national government shall grant the qualified applicant the  
3 following benefits:

- 4       a.     *Tuition and other fees.* – The graduates who earned the highest and second  
5 highest grade average (Valedictorian, Salutatorian) of each of night and day classes are  
6 entitled to receive a scholarship equivalent to a full tuition and other fees;
- 7       b.     *Food Allowance* – The qualified applicants shall receive Five Hundred Pesos  
8 (PhP500.00) per month for 10 months in a year for food;
- 9       c.     *Transportation allowance.* – The qualified applicants shall receive an allowance  
10 of Five Hundred Pesos (PhP500.00) per month for 10 months in a year for transportation.
- 11       d.     *Book Allowance* – The qualified applicants shall receive Five Hundred Pesos  
12 (PhP500.00) per semester or One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) per year of books;
- 13       e.     *Clothing allowance* - The qualified applicant shall receive Five Hundred Pesos  
14 (PhP500.00)/year for uniform allowance.

15       **SEC. 5. Rights of Scholars.** – Subject to the limitations prescribed by laws and  
16 regulations, the scholar shall enjoy the following rights:

- 17       a.     The right to freely choose their field of study subject to existing curricula and to  
18 continue their course therein up to graduation, except in cases of academic deficiency, or  
19 violation of disciplinary regulations;
- 20       b.     The right to shift to alternative field of study, provided, however, the government,  
21 will pay only the remaining years of his/her scholarship.
- 22       c.     The right to make decisions and selecting alternative scholarship programs other  
23 than that of the government, *Provided, however,* That the scholar should not enjoy two  
24 scholarships at one time.
- 25       d.     That if the beneficiary has availed of any government scholarship program other  
26 than the Program, s/he is only entitled to receive Food Allowance, Transportation  
27 Allowance, Book Allowance, and Clothing Allowance.

28       **SEC. 6. Render of Service** – Whenever the State deems it necessary to employ the  
29 professional service of a graduate-beneficiary of the Program, he/she shall make him/herself  
30 available for the public service to perform a duty and discharge a function subject, however, to  
31 the following conditions:

- 32       a.     S/He shall be justifiably compensated in accordance with the law;
- 33       a.     The service to be rendered is related to his/her qualifications and skill; and
- 34       b.     In no way s/he can be required to render service for more than two (2) years  
35 without her/his consent and approval.

1           **SEC. 7. *Funding.*** – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act  
2 shall be charged to the appropriations for the CHED under the current General Appropriations  
3 Act (GAA). Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this  
4 Act shall be included in the annual GAA.

5  
6           **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules.*** – The Commissioner of CHED shall issue the pertinent  
7 rules with regard to this Act, including but not limited to the application for, termination of,  
8 suspension and lifting of suspension of the Program.

9  
10           **SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
11 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
12 valid and subsisting.

13           **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,  
14 letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the  
15 provisions of this Act, is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

16  
17           **SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
18 complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
19 circulation.

Approved,