

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 675

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Introduced by SENATOR WIN T. GATCHALIAN

A RESOLUTION

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE
CURRENT STATE OF THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATION SYSTEM AND
THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICACY OF EXISTING EDUCATION
LAWS AND POLICIES**

WHEREAS, Sec. 1, Art. XIV of the 1987 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";

WHEREAS, in order to implement the aforementioned mandate, the next succeeding section of Art. XIV mandates the State to institutionalize key education initiatives, such as a "complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society", "a system of free public education in the elementary and high school levels", "a system of scholarship grants, student loans programs, subsidies, and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools", "non-formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems", and programs to "provide adult citizens, the disabled, and out-of-school youth with training in civics, vocational efficiency, and other skills";

WHEREAS, the Philippines has committed to achieving the goals set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations, among which is Sustainable Development Goal No. 4, to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”;

WHEREAS, by adopting Sustainable Development Goal No. 4, the Philippine government has committed to ensuring equal access to quality education at all levels, including: early childhood development, day care, and pre-primary education; basic, secondary, and tertiary education; technical, vocational, and entrepreneurial education; and non-formal literacy and numeracy training;

WHEREAS, education is highlighted as a key component to achieving the government’s Ambisyon Natin 2040 vision, which imagines the Philippines to be by 2040 a “prosperous, middle-class society where no one is poor” and where people “are smart and innovative”;

WHEREAS, in recent years the government has introduced legislative reforms targeted at expanding access to and improving the quality of the Philippine education system, including Republic Act No. 10533 (Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013), Republic Act No. 10687 (Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education Act), and Republic Act No. 10931 (Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act), among others;

WHEREAS, despite these reforms, the Philippine education system as a whole ranked a dismal 113th out of 127 countries on the 2017 Global Innovation Index, scoring only marginally better in the tertiary education category at 74th place out of 123 countries;

WHEREAS, the Philippine education system also earned poor marks on the Global Competitiveness Index 2017-2018 released by the World Economic Forum, ranking 66th out of 137 countries for quality of primary education, 74th for quality of higher education; and 76th for quality of math and science education;

WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of the performance of the Philippine education system, with special emphasis on collecting and analyzing concrete empirical evidence regarding key educational access and quality indicators, is necessary to craft responsive legislation and policies that will put the country on the right path toward the transformation of the Philippine education system into a world-class institution;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Philippines, to direct the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the current state of the Philippine education system and the effectiveness and efficacy of existing education laws and policies, with the aim of guiding joint legislative and executive efforts to craft and implement legislative and policy reforms aimed at empowering the State to fulfill its obligation under the Constitution and international law to provide the Filipino people with access to quality education at all levels.

Adopted,



WIN T. GATCHALIAN