



**SENATE**  
**P.S. Res. No. 914**

'18 OCT -3 P4:32

Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE RECENT CASES OF SUICIDES COMMITTED BY PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS WITH THE END VIEW OF INSTITUTING NEEDED MEASURES TO FURTHER SAFEGUARD THEIR PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL WELFARE**

1 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 4670 or the Magna Carta for Public School  
2 Teachers – which was enacted in 1966 – mandated the promotion and improvement  
3 of the social and economic status of public school teachers including their living and  
4 working conditions in order to retain in the teaching profession more people with the  
5 proper qualifications;

6 WHEREAS, in July, the country received unfortunate news of a newly-hired  
7 public school teacher who committed suicide just a few weeks after she was assigned  
8 to the school in La Paz, Leyte. A month later, another young teacher from Bacoor City,  
9 Cavite also committed suicide;

10 WHEREAS, according to accounts and reports from the teachers' colleagues  
11 and friends via social media, one of the numerous factors which weighed on the two  
12 teachers might be the alleged heavy amount of non-teaching related workload such  
13 as clerical tasks, class observations, and other paper works that were required of  
14 them;

15 WHEREAS, advocates for teachers' welfare also cite the implementation of the  
16 specific programs by the Department of Education (DepEd) such as the results-based  
17 performance management system (RPMS) and the use of Daily Lesson Log (DLL) and  
18 Detailed Lesson Plan (DLP) that – while well-intentioned – allegedly cause added  
19 stress for educators;

1           WHEREAS, while the real cause of the suicides cannot be determined with  
2 absolute certainty, current conditions with regards to the availability of guidance  
3 counselors in public schools make it much harder for our teachers to seek professional  
4 help especially since these guidance counselors often cater only to students;

5           WHEREAS, under the DepEd staffing standard, public and private elementary  
6 and high schools are required to hire one guidance counselor for every 500 students;

7           WHEREAS, the recently enacted Republic Act No. 11036 or the Mental Health  
8 Act also states that all public and private educational institutions shall be required to  
9 have a complement of mental health professionals. The same law also reinforces this  
10 mandate to the DepEd, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the  
11 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to ensure that mental  
12 health promotions in public and private educational institutions shall be adequately  
13 complemented with qualified mental health professionals.

14           WHEREAS, the accessibility, however, of psychiatric and psychosocial services  
15 for public school teachers has yet to be specified in the implementing rules and  
16 regulations (IRR) of the law;

17           WHEREAS, addressing the appropriate ratio of guidance counselors alone  
18 proves challenging as based on a news report<sup>1</sup>, since the enactment of Republic Act  
19 No. 9258 or the Guidance and Counseling Act of 2004 – which professionalized the  
20 practice of guidance and counseling – as of July 2017, there are only 3,220 registered  
21 guidance counselors (RGCs) nationwide since the first batch of licensure examinees in  
22 2008;

23           WHEREAS, the current number of RGCs is clearly not enough since over 40,000  
24 more are needed to meet the desired staffing standard for DepEd for public  
25 elementary and high schools students alone;

26           WHEREAS, in order to identify if the current workload of public school teachers  
27 is detrimental to their holistic well-being, address the current and arising needs of our  
28 country's educators, and determine the necessary steps to ensure that our teachers  
29 are afforded with accessible mental health services, a thorough evaluation is  
30 recommended;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://news.abs-cbn.com/focus/01/14/18/lack-of-registered-guidance-counselors-forces-schools-to-keep-unlicensed-ones-part-1>

1           NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines direct  
2 the appropriate Senate Committee to examine the recent cases of suicides committed  
3 by public school teachers with the end view of instituting needed measures to further  
4 safeguard their physical, emotional and mental welfare.

5           Adopted,



**SONNY ANGARA**