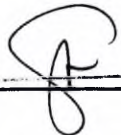


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SENATE
S. No. 1071

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

**AN ACT
PROVIDING A UNIFIED SYSTEM OF EXTENDING AND PROCESSING
SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS, STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS, SUBSIDIES,
BURSARIES AND OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT WINDOWS FOR THE
FILIPINO YOUTH, THEREBY ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP
COMMISSION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Based on the 2017 Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) report, about 9% of the estimated 39.2 million Filipinos aged 6 to 24 years old were out of school children and youth (OSCY). Said report also found out that the most common reasons among OSCY for not attending school were marriage or family matters (37.0%), high cost of education or financial concerns (17.9%), and lack of personal interest (24.7%). Among females, marriage or family matters was the main reason for not attending school (57%) while it is the lack of personal interest among males (43.8%). Nationwide, about 50% of OSCY belong to families whose income fall at the bottom 30% based on their per capita income.

It bears stressing that half of the 3.6 million OSCY are members of families whose income fall at the bottom 30% based on their per capita income. Ever since, formal education has taken the backseat for our countrymen with insufficient and/or low income. Formal education has not been considered as a priority and/or necessity for our less fortunate *kababayans*. Though formal education leads to a lot of opportunities, income generation and future means of livelihood, the investment needed for it is too gargantuan. Thus, the cycle of poverty becomes very difficult to break.

This reality is further worsened by the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education sector reflected by the growing number of out of school youth. Data from the Department of Education noted that from the 27.7 million enrollees in 2019, it dropped to 23 million enrollees in 2020. Close to 4 million students were not able to enroll for that school year³.

The goal of this measure is to bring available, existing and free education to OSCYs and other qualified individuals in an attempt to slowly significantly bring down the number of OSCY and take them out of the cycle of poverty. In doing so, this measure seeks to establish a National Scholarship Commission, an inter-agency government body with the following key duties and/or functions:

- a. Generate, safe-keep and update a comprehensive database of out of school children and youth (OSCY) and other qualified individuals nationwide, including pertinent data and/or circumstances of said OSCY;
- b. Identify and pin-point the reasons, issues and/or controversies that are keeping children and youth out of schools and formal education, as well as the needs of OSCY;
- c. Reach out to the OSCY and other qualified individuals and gather information and/or data that could help them get back to formal education;
- d. Proactively and effectively disseminate information regarding existing regular and/or special scholarships, educational grants and the like to OSCY and qualified individuals;
- e. Proactively and effectively generate and/or solicit scholarships, educational grants and the like for OSCY and qualified individuals; and
- f. Assist OSCY and qualified individuals who opt to avail of scholarships, educational grants and the like and facilitate with the necessary procedures and/or processes.

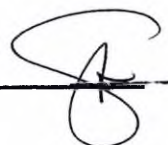
³Philippine News Agency. (7 February 2021). Growing number of out-of-school youth 'cause of concern'. Retrieved from <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1129909>

It is for the foregoing reasons that the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

Grace Poe
GRACE POE
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COMMISSION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 "National Scholarship
2 Commission Act".

3 *Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall protect and promote the right
4 of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to
5 make such education accessible to all.

6 The State shall also establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants,
7 student loan programs, subsidies, bursaries, and other incentives which shall be
8 available to deserving students and individuals in both public and private schools,
9 especially to the underprivileged.

10 It is the goal of the State to substantially bring down the number of out of
11 school youth and encourage them to continue seeking formal education, with the
12 goal of expanding their horizons with additional opportunities in the future, thereby
13 fully maximizing their full potential.

14 *Sec. 3. Duties and Functions of the National Scholarship Commission.* – The
15 following shall be the duties and functions of the National Scholarship Commission
16 (the "Commission"):

- 1 a. Generate, safe-keep and update a comprehensive database of out of school
2 children and youth (OSCY) and other qualified individuals nationwide,
3 including pertinent data and/or circumstances of said OSCY;
- 4 b. Identify and pinpoint the reasons, issues and/or controversies that are
5 keeping children and youth out of schools and formal education, as well as
6 the needs of OSCY;
- 7 c. Reach out to the OSCY and other qualified individuals and gather information
8 and/or data that could help them get back to formal education;
- 9 d. Proactively and effectively disseminate information regarding existing regular
10 and/or special scholarships, educational grants and the like to OSCY and
11 qualified individuals;
- 12 e. Proactively and effectively generate and/or solicit scholarships, educational
13 grants and the like for OSCY and qualified individuals; and,
- 14 f. Assist OSCY and qualified individuals who opt to avail of scholarships,
15 educational grants and the like and facilitate with the necessary procedures
16 and/or processes.

17 *Sec. 4. Composition of the National Scholarship Commission.* – The
18 Commission shall be composed and governed by the following:

- 19 a. The Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd), or his/her duly
20 authorized representative, as a co-chairperson of the Commission;
- 21 b. The Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), or his/her
22 duly authorized representative, as a co-chairperson of the Commission;
- 23 c. The Secretary of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
24 (TESDA), or his/her duly authorized representative, as a co-chairperson of the
25 Commission;
- 26 d. The Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD),
27 or his/her duly authorized representative, as member of the Commission;
- 28 e. The Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government
29 (DILG), or his/her duly authorized representative, as a member of the
30 Commission;
- 31 f. The Chairperson of the National Youth Commission (NYC) as a member of the
32 Commission; and,

1 g. A representative from the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), who shall be elected
2 by all SK Provincial Federation Presidents, as a member of the commission.

3 Sec. 5. *Staffing and the National Scholarship Commission's Secretariat.* – The
4 Commission's staff, secretariat and personnel shall be appointed by the Commission.
5 The Commission shall convene immediately upon the effectivity of this Act to
6 organize and come up with internal rules and procedures necessary for its daily
7 operations and the carrying out of its duties and functions as spelled out in this Act.

8 Sec. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Commission shall likewise
9 promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within
10 ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

11 Sec. 7. *Appropriation.* – The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of
12 this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following the
13 enactment of this Act. In the meantime, the initial funding, prior to the inclusion in
14 the regular budget, shall be provided from the existing budgets of the DepEd, CHED
15 and TESDA.

16 Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, issuances rules and regulations or
17 parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
18 modified or amended accordingly.

19 Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
20 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
21 remain in force and effect.

22 Sec. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
23 following the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a
24 newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,