EXPLANATORY NOTE

Every year, the Department of Education (DepEd) through its Department Orders consistently reiterate the "No Collection Policy" during graduation rites in public schools in its effort to ease the financial burden of families and to encourage them to celebrate this important milestone in every child’s life.

In support of the government's efforts to make graduation ceremonies more affordable to all families by eliminating unnecessary expenses, this bill seeks to prohibit elementary schools and pre-schools, public and private, from requiring their graduating students to wear the toga or any academic garb during the graduation rites.

The bill envisions families anticipating this joyful event with excitement, instead of worry due to the cost of a required attire, on top of other expenses. Additionally, the money spent on buying or renting the toga may be used instead for more worthwhile and lasting particulars.

In light of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is humbly sought.

LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.
AN ACT
PROHIBITING PRE-SCHOOLS AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FROM
MANDATING GRADUATING PUPILS TO WEAR A TOGA
DURING GRADUATION RITES

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

SECTION 1. All pre-schools and elementary schools are prohibited from mandating graduating pupils to wear a toga during their graduation ceremonies.

SECTION 2. The mandatory wearing of a toga during graduation ceremonies may only be imposed on graduating students of secondary schools, tertiary schools and other institutions of higher learning.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of the Department of Education shall issue the necessary rules orders and circulars to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,