

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 108



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Introduced by **KABATAAN PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE**  
**SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TO PROBE INTO, CONDEMN, AND REVOKE THE MEMORANDUM RELEASED BY CHED AND UNIFAST ALLOWING 141 FEES TO BE COLLECTED DESPITE FREE TERTIARY TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES LAW**

**WHEREAS**, Section 1 of Article XIV of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines states 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**, however, last April 3, 2019, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Unified Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education Act (UniFAST) released a memorandum allowing fees collection in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) despite free tertiary education law;

**WHEREAS**, the memorandum contained a list of 141 fees, not covered by the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act or Free Education Act under RA 10931. It implies that State Universities and Colleges are now allowed to collect these fees from students, depending how they wish to do so.

**WHEREAS**, these imposed fees assault the purpose of the student movement's victory in the removal of fee collection under free education. While student councils and publications remain defunded, the steps we have made toward free and accessible education are at risk;

**WHEREAS**, the release by CHED-UniFAST of the list of 141 other school fees (OSF) that may be collected from students of state universities and colleges (SUCs) bastardizes the intent of the free education program which prohibits OSF collection;

**WHEREAS**, by openly declaring that several OSF may be collected from SUC students, CHED-UniFAST legitimizes continued collection of OSF. This creates a backdoor for the creation of new OSF or increase in any of the OSF listed by CHED-UniFAST, as already recorded in several SUCs;

**WHEREAS**, among the fees that are not encompassed by the free tuition policy are text books, laboratory tools, instruction materials, to name a few. While this policy is yet to be implemented, we are wary that it will follow suit given its recent order in other state universities and colleges. We are steadfast with the belief that this is but another manifestation of how anti-people the state is.

Not only does this outrightly undermine the efforts of the youth and the student movement for free education, but it wholly disregards the people's access to a basic right;

**WHEREAS**, it is apparent that the state, whose mandate is to provide free quality education to all, has instead chosen to make a business of education. If the administration truly believes that education is a right, then it should not come with a price;

**WHEREAS**, we hold the Duterte administration accountable for these anti-student policies designed to make profit out of education. If they truly are sincere in providing free education, then it should be accessible to all. We firmly believe that the expense for necessary materials needed for quality education should and must be shouldered by the state;

**WHEREAS**, reports from PUP Maragondon and PUP Lopez students state that fees such as Certificate of Grades fee are now being collected from them;

**WHEREAS**, for instance, in UP Diliman, there are more than a thousand undergraduate students and thousands more of graduate students deprived of free tuition. Years after RA 10931 was passed, there are still no clear actions as to how these issues should be addressed;

**WHEREAS**, the government fails to realize the supposed orientation of our education. Despite its weight and importance, the problem is more than tuition;

**WHEREAS**, educational institutions are meant for learning, development, and realization of our purpose. Education should be geared to breed individuals which will spark and fight for genuine social change and advance social justice in their own efforts and respective fields. Yet, our government remains firm that our institutions are spaces for profit and power;

**WHEREAS**, with this, we also remain firm that EDUCATION IS A BASIC RIGHT. We won't allow these maneuvers to take place. Moreso, we won't let the accomplishments of the decades-long militant student movement be discredited and tarnished by these anti-student policies;

**WHEREAS**, we, the youth, must unite and work together to stop this maneuver that takes back our hard-earned victory to attain free education;

**WHEREAS**, as the youth, we are compelled to resist these policies which deprives us of our right to free, quality education. We must continue to assert our rights, and demand for free education;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the members of the House of Representatives condemn and revoke the memorandum released by CHED and UniFAST allowing 141 fees to be collected despite Free Tertiary Tuition and Other School Fees Law.

*Adopted,*

**Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**  
*Kabataan Party-list*

