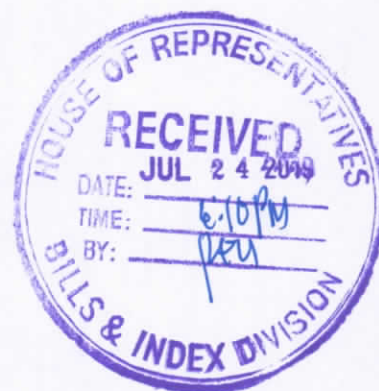


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Resolution No. 116

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

RESOLUTION
DECLARING THE UNITY TO PROTECT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AS ZONES
OF PEACE AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM

WHEREAS "Philippine Declaration of Unity to Protect Educational Institutions as Zones of Peace and Academic Freedom" was adopted at the National Students' Rights Summit held on November 17, 2018 at the Commission on Human Rights for the Philippine celebration of International Students' Day;

WHEREAS students, faculty members and school administrators from various schools, declare our unity to protect universities, colleges, schools and all learning institutions as zones of peace and academic freedom.

WHEREAS education must not only prepare students for employment, for it also must produce citizens who contribute to the building of a nation that is socially just. The educational experience must transform an individual into one who shares in the collective aspiration for just peace and democracy in our society.

WHEREAS in order to attain this objective, academic freedom in educational institutions must be upheld. Students and teachers must be allowed to foster critical thinking on matters inside and outside the classroom, including the issues that pertain to our country. Free exchange of ideas must not be crippled, and members of the academic community who present and discuss relevant social issues must not be labelled as subversives or enemies of the state.

WHEREAS the right of students and teachers to study history and society without fear of being apprehended must be protected at all times. As our country gone through dark times during the past dictatorship imposed over the people, it is fitting that today's learners are informed of facts and accounts pertaining to such a period. We wish that

this part of our past is not erased from our collective memory for it is a lamppost that makes the people on guard whenever the return of dictatorship looms.

WHEREAS the basic democratic right to free speech and organization must be protected. Constituents of an educational institution should be allowed to freely express their opinions, thoughts and beliefs without the threat of being harassed or attacked. They must be allowed to form or join organizations that are in line with their vision and interests. These democratic rights will enable us to recognize the power of collective action to promote our welfare.

WHEREAS external threats to the academic community must not be condoned. Thus, we reject attempts to stifle dissent and the exercise of democratic rights in educational institutions. We will not permit unwarranted surveillance and entry by state forces into school campuses, such the searching of students and faculty members who are tagged as subversives.

WHEREAS addressing social realities and confronting longstanding problems are tasks of citizens, so students and teachers must not be reprimanded for doing so. Schools must foster an environment that is conducive for critical thought and active participation of its constituents in the shaping of society.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the members of the House of Representatives declare unity to protect educational institutions as Zones of Peace and Academic Freedom.

Adopted,



Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Party-list