A RESOLUTION
URGING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE REPERCUSSIONS TO WORKERS IN GOVERNMENT OF
MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 580 RELEASED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, President Rodrigo Duterte signed into law Republic
Act No.11459 also known as Bayanihan to Heal as One Act as a response to the Coronavirus
Disease 2019 (COVID-19) crisis in the country;

WHEREAS, the said Act has authorized the President to exercise emergency
measures and have identified funding resources that can be utilized to responsibly and
adequately respond to the national health emergency;

WHEREAS, Section 4(v) of the Act directed the discontinuance of appropriated
programs, projects, or activities of any agency of the Executive Department, in the FYs 2019
and 2020 General Appropriations Acts (GAAs), including unreleased appropriations and
unobligated released allotments;

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
released National Budget Circular No. 580 regarding the adoption of economy measures in
the government due to the emergency health situation, in line with the provisions of the Act;
WHEREAS, on April 28, 2020, the Contractual Workers Welfare Association-National Anti-Poverty Commission (CWWA-NAPC) raised their concern regarding the provisions in the memorandum which states to implement the 10% discontinuance in the amounts corresponding to FY 2020 released allotments for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) and Capital Outlays (CO). Specifically, the memorandum indicates the discontinuance of (a) hiring of job orders except for frontliners, (b) services of consultants and technical assistants, and (c) all other MOOE items not enumerated;

WHEREAS, CWWA-NAPC believes that the memorandum would mean reduction in the present Contract of Service and Job Order personnel in the Commission which comprises the bulk of its workforce;

WHEREAS, the 2018 Commission on Audit (COA) report shows that 46 out of 50 authorized plantilla positions in NAPC were filled out, complemented by 40 Consultants, and 150 and 43 personnel under Contact of Service and Job Order respectively, or a total workforce of 279;

WHEREAS, in time of the COVID–19 pandemic, aside from addressing the health emergency, the State also has the responsibility to ensure job security in the country especially of our kababayans gravely affected by the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) and the continuous and efficient operations of different government agencies;

RESOLVED AS IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Committee on Labor and Employment of the House of Representatives to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the repercussions to workers in government of Memorandum Circular No. 580 released by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Adopted,

REP. ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT
MAGSASAKA Party-list