Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1274

Introduced by REP. EDGAR M. CHATTO – First District, Bohol and REP. JOCELYN S. LIMKAICHONG – First District, Negros Oriental

RESOLUTION
STRONGLY URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL BUDGET OF TWENTY BILLION PESOS TO FUND THE PRINTING OF SELF-LEARNING MODULES (SLMs) TO IMPLEMENT THE DISTANCE LEARNING EDUCATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022

WHEREAS, in late 2019, a new coronavirus emerged in central China to cause disease in humans. Cases of this disease, known as COVID-19, have since been reported across around the globe. On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the virus represents a public health emergency of international concern. WHO’s highest level of alarm;¹

WHEREAS, at that time there were 98 cases and no deaths in 18 countries outside China. Four countries had evidence (8 cases) of human-to-human transmission outside China². Since 31 December 2019 and as of 04 October 2020, 34,986,502 cases of COVID-19 have been reported, including 1,034,240 deaths;³

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2020, the His Excellency, President Rodrigo R. Duterte, issued Proclamation No. 922, declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the entire Philippines. It was followed by several other Proclamations declaring various levels of community quarantines intending to thwart the spread of the coronavirus in the country;

WHEREAS, most governments around the world have temporarily closed educational institutions in an attempt to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. These nationwide closures are impacting hundreds of millions of students. Several other countries have implemented localized

closures impacting millions of additional learners. UNESCO is supporting 
countries in their efforts to mitigate the immediate impact of school closures, 
particularly for more vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, and to 
facilitate the continuity of education for all through remote learning;4

WHEREAS, Republic Act 11480 amending RA 7797 was passed on July 
17, 2020 allowing adjustments in the school calendar in ‘times of national 
emergency’ through the Chief Executive upon recommendation by the Secretary 
of Education. By virtue of this, school calendar year for 2020 has twice been 
postponed – from June to August to October;

WHEREAS, delay in the printing of self-learning modules, is one of the 
reasons for the delay of the school opening from August to October. DepEd cites 
insufficient supplies and budget for the purchase of bond paper contributed to 
the delay;

WHEREAS, to ensure the effective implementation of the distance 
learning education, the Department of Education (DepEd) estimates that forty 
billion pesos (P40 billion) is needed for the printing of self-learning modules 
(SLMs). Of this amount, fifteen billion pesos (P15 billion) will come from 
regular funds and five billion pesos (P5 billion) from unprogrammed funds. 
Other possible sources of funds being looked at are the Special Education Fund 
(SEF) and the Brigada Eskwela;

WHEREAS, the SEF, which arises from tax collected by the local 
government unit, supplements annual budgetary needs for the operation and 
maintenance of public schools within the province, city, or municipality. Brigada Eskwela, on the other hand, is DepEd’s annual public school repair 
volunteer program where teachers can also seek donations for school materials;

WHEREAS, while there are support coming from local government 
units and the private sector throughout the country, the same is not enough to 
sustain the needs of the current educational set-up for the entire school year. At 
best, these efforts, including the SEF and Brigada Eskwela, remains suppletory. 
Further, teachers should not be unduly burdened with soliciting for materials 
for the SLMs;

WHEREAS, as of date, 22,321,903 public school students have signed 
up for school year 2021-2022 opening today, October 5;

WHEREAS, to ensure the full implementation and non-disruption of 
education through delays and problems in the printing of SLMs and to allow 
teachers to concentrate on the new teaching methods, there is a need to 
augment the present budget of the DepEd;

4 https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HERE RESOLVED, that the House Committee on Appropriations is strongly urged to allocate additional budget of twenty billion pesos to fund the printing of self-learning modules (SLMs) to implement the distance learning education of the Department of Education (DepEd) for school year 2021-2022.

Adopted,

EDGAR M. CHATTO

JOCELYN S. LIMKAICHONG