Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1360

Introducted by KABATAAN PARTY-LIST Representative Sarah Jane I. Elago,
ACT TEACHERS PARTY-LIST Representative France L. Castro,
BAYAN MUNA PARTY-LIST Representatives Carlos Isagani T. Zarate,
Ferdinand Gaite and Eufemia C. Cullamat,
and GABRIELA WOMEN’S PARTY Representative Arlene D. Brosas

RESOLUTION
STRONGLY URGING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TO HEED THE CALL FOR A NATIONAL ACADEMIC BREAK FOLLOWING THE ONSLAUGHT OF TYPHOONS AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, 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, the State policy provides that it recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall also inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs;

WHEREAS, five typhoons in a row hit the Philippines within at least a month and have left trails of devastation in their wakes which include not only physical injuries, human casualties, and material/property damages but even psychological harm to those who are most affected. The last three typhoons killed at least 100 people and causing damages of almost PhP 25 billion based on reports from the disaster agency. The most recent typhoon, Ulysses, battered CALABARZON, Central Luzon, and Metro Manila, unleashing powerful winds and torrential rain that left neighborhoods submerged and people appealing for aid and rescue;

WHEREAS, the entire Philippines has already been placed under a state of calamity since the first half of the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and it was even extended for one year effective last September 13, 2020; now, another declaration of a state of calamity in the country’s largest island Luzon, home to 53 million people-half of the Philippine population, has been declared as the circumstances were aggravated by typhoons and other natural calamities;
WHEREAS, as the country reels from a global health crisis, its economic impacts, and now from natural calamities, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Commissioner Popoy De Vera, and President Rodrigo Duterte should immediately take action now more than ever to assist students and teachers;

WHEREAS, heeding the urgent calls of the students, we demand the immediate declaration of a national academic break in light of recent calamities and in consideration of the physical and mental well-being of students, teachers, and their families, especially those extremely affected by the typhoons’ onslaught;

WHEREAS, an academic break can help students and their families cope with the recent calamities, adjust, and ease up on its effects on their well-being and livelihood, and can also allow willing students to participate physically or virtually in the current relief efforts;

WHEREAS, aside from being a period for rest and recovery, this break can also be utilized for an assessment of the current education situation and the needs of the stakeholders for the identification and implementation of necessary adjustments to academic workloads and the present learning set-up;

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT, the House of Representatives strongly urges the Commission on Higher Education to heed the call for a national academic break following the onslaught of typhoons amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted,

Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Party-list

Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Party-list

Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-list

Rep. FERDINAND GAITE
Bayan Muna Party-list

Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women’s Party

Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Party-list