

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 155

Introduced 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

**URGING THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MANIFEST
THEIR SUPPORT TO THE YOUTH'S STAND FOR THE FUTURE,
STAND WITH THE YOUTH UNITY STATEMENT**

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 13 of the Philippine Constitution states that "*The State 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 inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs;*"

WHEREAS, the youth are reminded multiple times that they are the hope of the nation. To enable young Filipinos to fulfill this role, society must have programs and policies that will allow the youth to be productive and responsible citizens of the country;

WHEREAS, unfortunately, when it comes to national legislation concerning young people and children, we can observe some priority bills filed in both chambers of Congress that will negatively affect their rights and welfare;

WHEREAS, for instance, there are moves to fast-track the lowering of the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR). This has met widespread opposition from many advocacy groups and progressive organizations because it targets the children themselves who have been in conflict with the law, rather than addressing factors like poverty and lack of enabling environments.

WHEREAS, in the Senate, a legislator re-filed the Senate bill that aims to amend the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act and effectively lower the MACR from 15 to 12 years old;

WHEREAS, in addition, the revival of mandatory ROTC through senior high school is a top priority of the incumbent administration, supposedly to lead the youth away from drugs and crime and to instill discipline and love of country;

WHEREAS, another legislator re-filed the Senate bill to legislate mandatory ROTC. This militarist approach to youth participation has been criticized since most senior high school students are minors, who are protected by international conventions from being automatically enlisted in the reserve force of their countries;

WHEREAS, with these looming threats to children and youth, we Filipinos must come forward as one to register a common call. We must struggle with the future generations in mind, for we owe to them our present efforts in building a just and humane society;

WHEREAS, in light of the urgent need to protect the interests of young Filipinos, we call for united efforts to block legislation that will adversely affect children and youth. We stand in solidarity with youth organizations, children's rights advocates and all concerned sectors in spearheading programs that are geared towards the advancement of the welfare of young Filipinos;

WHEREAS, we enjoin everyone in working together towards a just and peaceful nation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Members of the House of Representatives manifest their support to the youth's *Stand For the Future, Stand With the Youth* Unity Statement.

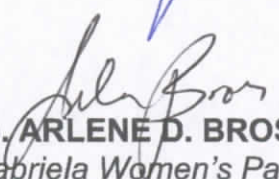
Adopted,



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



Rep. **FRANCE L. CASTRO**
ACT Teachers Party-list



Rep. **ARLENE D. BROSAS**
Gabriela Women's Party



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



Rep. **FERDINAND GAITE**
Bayan Muna Party-list

Rep. **EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**
Bayan Muna Party-list