Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Batasan Hills, Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS** 

Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 2180

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DATE August 27, 2021

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Introduced by

ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,
Rep. FERDINAND R. GAITE and Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and KABATAAN Party-List Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

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## RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLOCATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF LAPTOPS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT 11494 OR THE BAYANIHAN TO RECOVER AS ONE ACT

WHEREAS, Section 10 (n) of Republic Act 11494 or the *Bayanihan to Recover as One Act* provides for a ₱4 billion appropriations "to assist the DepEd in the implementation of Digital Education, Information Technology (IT) and Digital Infrastructures and Alternative Learning Modalities, including printing and delivery of self-learning modules of the DepEd." Other pertinent provisions in the law convey the intent of government to deliver assistance to teachers themselves in order to assist them in the fulfillment of their duties during the pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Department of Education (DepEd) Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA) released on August 09, 2021 Memorandum 00-0821-0062 regarding the allocation and distribution of laptops procured with *Bayanihan II* funds;

WHEREAS, the memorandum lays down the priorities for the distribution of 25 laptops per Regional Office; 15 laptops each for small, 20 for medium, 25 for large, and 30 for very large Schools Division Offices; and one laptop each per Implementing Unit and District Office. On the other hand, the DepEd allotted only 115 laptops per Legislative District which will be given to schools or teachers;

WHEREAS, the Regional Offices, Schools Division Offices, Implementing Unit and District Offices has a sure 1-is-to-1 laptop ratio while the schools or teachers will have to hope that they will be chosen as among the lucky few who will be given a laptop out of the 115 laptops per Legislative District. The Memorandum also disqualifies schools which have been recipients of past years' Computerization Program, without considering that not all units were issued to teachers themselves. Clearly, that not all the schools will get a laptop each;

WHEREAS, the intent of R.A. 11494 is to alleviate the teachers' economic burden and prevent them from being forced to procure, using their meager salaries, the needed laptops and gadgets for online or distance learning. However, the said Memorandum violates that by prioritizing the various offices of the DepEd and higher-paid officials instead of the teachers themselves:

WHEREAS, Congress should review the distribution and allocation of the laptops to arrive at reasonable guidelines that will be more compliant with this intent, otherwise, teachers will be driven further into financial crisis—which will in turn worsen the learning crisis that is already occurring.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives direct the House Committee on Public Accounts and Committee on Basic Education and Culture to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the allocation and distribution of laptops under Republic Act No. 11494 or the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act.

Adopted,

Rep. FRAN E L. CASTRO ACT Teachers Party-List

**Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE** 

BAYAN MUNA Party-List

**Rep. FERDINAND GAITE** 

BAYAN MUNA Party-List

Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT

BAYAN MUNA Party-List

Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS

GABRIELA Women's Party

Rep. SARÁHJÁNE I. ELAGO KABATAAN Party-List