

**HONORABLE MARK O. GO**

Chairperson  
Committee on Higher and Technical Education  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

Attn: **Ms. Melanie Mauricio**  
Committee Secretary

Dear **REPRESENTATIVE GO**,

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) strongly expresses its support and appreciation to **House Resolution Numbered 767** entitled, ***“Resolution Calling for the Government to Improve Access to Tertiary Education and Reduce Attrition Rates Among 4Ps Beneficiaries and Other Deserving and Financially Challenged Students by Increasing Budget Allocation for Scholarships, Among Other Interventions”***, introduced by Representative Paul Daza. This measure is a vital step towards promoting accessible, equal opportunities, and sustained education for the neediest and deserving Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) household beneficiaries toward achieving a state of improved well-being and eventual graduation and exit from the program.

We wish to highlight the fact that the 4Ps does not cover higher/college/tertiary education, but instead 4Ps beneficiaries who graduated secondary education are referred to various service providers for educational assistance for higher education through integrated delivery of social development programs and services in the form of scholarships, grants, student loans and subsidies, consistent with the Kilos-Unlad Framework. It may be noteworthy to also mention that in efforts to address the existing gaps of the program, the 4Ps-NPMO drafted proposed amendments to Republic Act No. 11310 or the 4Ps Act. One of the salient features of the proposed amendments is the inclusion of grant of Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) to 4Ps graduates.

Still, there is insufficient and inequitable access to education for these 4Ps beneficiaries thus, HRN-767 is highly welcomed and appreciated as this would reinforce implementation of 4Ps-Kilos Unlad Framework. Likewise, the increased allotment in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) would sustain the continuous funding for the scholarship and other forms of grants provided by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) such as TES, Tulong-Dunong Program (TDP), and Student Financial Assistance Programs (StuFAPS), which the 4Ps beneficiaries may avail of.

Thus, may we take this opportunity to submit the following recommendations for review and consideration of the Committee:

- Conduct a thorough assessment of the current state of scholarship programs and identify areas for improvement to make the programs more relevant, effective, and accessible;
- Prepare cost requirements for each scholarship program to cover more 4Ps and other deserving beneficiaries;


- The proposed plans should be aligned with the government's goals including sustainable development and poverty reduction;
- The CHED shall establish and employ stringent monitoring and evaluation, and reporting mechanisms to ensure inclusive, equitable, transparent, and accountable fund utilization and implementation of the scholarship programs and that the neediest students are prioritized;
- Creation of a TES category for 4Ps beneficiaries as initially discussed with CHED UNIFAST sometime in April 2021 and to be raised to the UNIFAST Board. It bears noting that the CHED UNIFAST responded that the funding is yet to be explored and requested that this be included as a special provision in the National Expenditure Program (NEP); and
- Revival of the Expanded Student Grants-in-Aid Program for Poverty Alleviation (ESGP-PA) which targets 4Ps beneficiaries with no college graduates in their families yet.

Furthermore, as committed by the DSWD during the committee hearing on May 15, 2023, may we respectfully share the list of 4Ps beneficiaries from 2015-2023 that may be considered for the TES.

For the Chairperson's consideration.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



**REX GATCHALIAN**  
Secretary  
Date: JUN 20 2023

CF: Representative Marcelino C. Libanan