



Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL

Quezon City
22nd City Council

PR22CC-486

36th Regular Session

RESOLUTION NO. SP- 9343, S-2023

A RESOLUTION URGING THE CONGRESS TO PASS THE BASIC EDUCATION MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING PROMOTION BILL, EMPHASIZING THE INCREASE IN THE SALARY GRADE OF GUIDANCE COUNSELORS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Councilor ALY MEDALLA

Co-Introduced by Councilors Bernard R. Herrera, Tany Joe "TJ" L. Calalay, Dorothy A. Delarmente, M.D., Joseph P. Juico, Charm M. Ferrer, Fernando Miguel "Mikey" F. Belmonte, Candy A. Medina, Dave C. Valmocina, Tatay Rannie Z. Ludovica, Godofredo T. Liban II, Geleen "Dok G" G. Lumbad, Albert Alvin "Chuckie" L. Antonio III, Don S. De Leon, Wencerom Benedict C. Lagumbay, Atty. Anton L. Reyes, Edgar "Egay" G. Yap, Imee A. Rillo, Raquel S. Malañgen, Irene R. Belmonte, Nanette Castelo-Daza, Marra C. Suntay, Joseph Joe Visaya, Alfred Vargas, MPA, Ram V. Medalla, Shaira "Shay" L. Liban, Aiko S. Melendez, Mutya Castelo, Maria Eleanor "Doc Ellie" R. Juan, O.D., Kristine Alexia R. Matias, Eric Z. Medina, Emmanuel Banjo A. Pilar, Vito Sotto Generoso, Victor "Vic" Bernardo, Alfredo "Freddy" Roxas and Julian Marcus D. Trono

WHEREAS, Section 13, Article II of the 1987 Constitution is explicit in recognizing the vital role of the youth in nation-building and the need to promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being;

WHEREAS, the City Council has passed Ordinance No. SP-3158, S-2022 or the Quezon City Mental Health Code of 2022, adopting Republic Act No. 11036, otherwise known as the National Mental Health Act, including all existing mental health programs into a comprehensive legal framework for the City;

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WHEREAS, during her speech at the 2022 Mental Health Month, the Honorable Mayor Ma. Josefina G. Belmonte stated that “it is our moral responsibility as a local government to contribute to alleviating the state of mental health care that studies depict are exacerbated by chronic underinvestment, lack of mental health professionals, the prohibitive cost of consultation and treatment, and the persistent stigmatization of mental health problems”;

WHEREAS, the National Center for Mental Health (NCMH) hotline has received almost as many calls in the first half of 2021 as it did for the year 2020. For the year 2022, on the other hand, NCMH hotline received 11,017 mental health-related calls, just a little more than the number of calls received in the half of 2021. Majority or 63% of the calls received this year were from women while 37% were from men. Since 2020, most of the callers were aged between 18 to 30 years old. Also, the said hotline received 3,329 suicide-related calls during first half of 2021, more than double the 1,382 of similar calls it received in 2020;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9258, also known as the Guidance and Counseling Act of 2004, states that only registered and licensed guidance counselors can provide guidance and counseling services in order to avoid bringing harm to mentally distressed students;

WHEREAS, there is a need to supplement the Mental Health Act of 2017 as it is the utmost priority of this City to ensure both the physical and mental well-being of our citizens, especially of our students;

WHEREAS, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) noted that 405 out of 661 examinees passed the Guidance Counselor Licensure Examination administered by the Board of Guidance and Counseling last August 2022;

WHEREAS, based on the reported data from the Schools Division Office of Quezon City, the ratio for one guidance counselor is 28,329 students. The current enrollment for the school year January 2023 is 453,257 students. Currently, there are 16 guidance counselors assigned across the public schools of the City;

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WHEREAS, there are ten (10) Registered Guidance Counselors (RGC) under the Schools Division Office of Quezon City with an item position and six (6) non-RGC with guidance counselor item positions who were hired in May 2023;

WHEREAS, to date, guidance counselors are required to obtain a masteral degree in order to fully practice their profession but the salary grade they are assigned to is not aligned with the skills that they can offer. The Senate Bill No. 379 proposes for an increase in salary grade for the guidance counselors as shown below:

Position Title	Current Salary Grade for Guidance Counsellor	Proposed Salary Grade for Guidance Counsellor from Senate Bill No. 379
Guidance Counsellor I	Salary Grade 11	Salary Grade 16
Guidance Counsellor II	Salary Grade 12	Salary Grade 17
Guidance Counsellor III	Salary Grade 13	Salary Grade 18

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Senate Bill No. 379, otherwise known as Basic Education Mental Health and Well-being Promotion Bill, must be passed in order to encourage more mental health professionals and guidance counselors to work for the public sector and be able to support the mental health of the public school students of the City, as well as the country.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED, to urge, as it does hereby urge, the Congress to pass the Basic Education Mental Health and Well-Being Promotion Bill, emphasizing the increase in the salary grade of Guidance Counselors in public schools in the Philippines.

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36th Regular Session


Res. No. SP- 9343, S-2023
Page -4- PR22CC-486

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines.

ADOPTED: June 26, 2023.

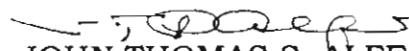

GIAN G. SOTTO
City Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:


ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III
City Government Department Head III
(City Council Secretary)

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Resolution was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on June 26, 2023 and was CONFIRMED under Suspended Rules on the same date.


ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III
City Government Department Head III
(City Council Secretary)



