



BAPCU
(Bicol Association of Private Colleges and Universities)

Statement of Gratitude to Congressman Joey Salceda,
House Committee on Ways and Means and 75 Congressmen for
Their Swift and Decisive Support of a Bill to Secure the Preferential
Tax Rates for Private Schools

On behalf of the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA), Davao Colleges and Universities Network (DACUN), Association of Private, State Colleges, and Universities in Region XI (APSCUR XI), Bicol Association of Private Colleges and Universities (BAPCU), CESAFI Association of Cebu Private Schools, we wish to convey our sincere appreciation to the House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means headed by its Chairman, Rep. Joey S. Salceda, for promptly approving yesterday House Bill 9913, the substitute bill or “An Act Clarifying the Income Taxation of Proprietary Educational Institutions, Amending for the Purpose Section 27 (B) of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as Amended,” to secure with finality the grant of preferential tax rate of 10% for proprietary schools, including the temporarily lowered rate of 1% during the pandemic, under the CREATE Act.

In particular we would like to thank the following Congressmen for responding to our call for the urgent passage of this important legislation amidst the threat to the survival of many affected private schools throughout the country:

- a. Rep, Joey Salceda, author of House Bill No. 9596
- b. Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez, author of House Bill No. 9577
- c. Rep. Kiko Benitez, author of House Bill No. 9573
- d. Rep. Luis Villafuerte, author of House Bill No. 9672
- e. Rep. Mark Go, author of House Resolution No. 1877
- f. Rep.. Joy Tambunting, author of House Resolution No. 1858

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We are also grateful that Chairman Salceda and his colleagues are moving vigorously for the swift passage of this bill. We likewise recognize with great appreciation the fast action of Majority Floor Leader Martin Romualdez for prioritizing HB 9913 in the plenary agenda.

We urgently appeal to the other members of Congress to support the approval of the bill on second and third reading as soon as possible.

We are hopeful that the bill can be signed into law before the new school year starts in earnest this August and September, so that our schools can fully focus on dealing with the Learning Crisis and the COVID pandemic that our country is currently grappling with.

We also urge our many private education stakeholders to join us in our collective appeal to Congress, to extend a lifeline to our struggling schools during this pandemic, to ensure the continuity of learning for our students, to secure the jobs of our teachers and personnel, and to provide livelihoods for the many small businesses (e.g. carinderias, tricycle drivers) who are dependent on our schools.

With the few remaining number of days in the legislative calendar and the number of urgent measures lined up in Congress, we are racing against time to have the law enacted in this 18th Congress.

We also thank House Speaker, Rep. Lord Allan Velasco, for ensuring his commitment to help and support the private education sector and its students, teachers and employees, to rise above the



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challenges of this pandemic, during his opening address at the start of this 3rd and last session of the 18th Congress. We are grateful to him for giving education the priority it rightfully deserves as enshrined in our Constitution.


This legislative policy intervention in providing stability to education not only in this time of pandemic but also for generations to come, is both crucial and complementary to any economic measures to revive our battered economy.


We pray for our Congressmen that they may continue to be filled with courage and the strength of purpose to urgently pass this landmark legislation for Philippine education in this 18th Congress.

Maraming Salamat Po!

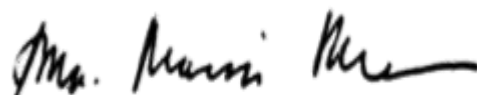
August 3, 2021


Very truly yours,

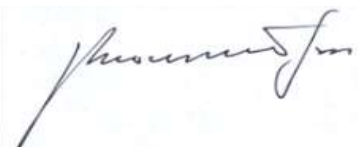

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