

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 1494



Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVE MAGNOLIA ROSA ANTONINO NADRES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is a human development program of the national government that invests in the health and education of poor households, particularly children aged zero to 14 years old. The Program, which is patterned after the conditional cash transfer scheme implemented in other development countries like Mexico and Brazil, has two-fold objectives namely, social assistance or cash assistance, and social development or investment in human capital.

It is sad to note however that while the Program is intended to break the intergenerational poverty cycle- that we are poor because we have no education, we have no education because we are poor, it will not achieve its purpose for the reason that educational assistance covers only up to universal primary education.

The government must not only give fish but must teach the citizens how to fish. Education is still a ticket to a good station in life. This way eradication of extreme poverty is not far behind.

It is therefore the paramount objective of this bill to expand the coverage of the Program by providing a college scholarship program to those high school graduates coming from the recipients of the 4Ps as certified by the DSWD. This will enable the families to have at least one family member graduate from college or technical-vocational institution. Certainly, this will help open windows of opportunities to land a better paying upon entering the labor force and eventually alleviate their plight or improve their standard of living.

The 4Ps now operates in 79 provinces, 1,261 municipalities and 138 key cities covering around four million in May 2013 and is expected to reach 5.2 million by 2015.

Considering the significant number of poor people who will benefit from this proposal, approval of the same is earnestly sought.


MAGNOLIA ROSA ANTONINO NADRES
Representative
Fourth District, Nueva Ecija

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AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO
PROGRAM (4Ps) BY PROVIDING GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP GRANT TO
THE 4Ps BENEFICIARIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives
of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “4Ps Government Scholarship Grant for University and Technical-Vocational Education Act of 2013.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and make quality tertiary education accessible to all Filipino citizens. The complimentary roles of public and private educational institutions, 4Ps including technical-vocational education in the educational system is hereby recognized. Towards this end, the State shall provide a mechanism to enhance access of high school graduates coming from qualified beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

SEC. 3. Coverage. – The college scholarship grant for degree and non-degree programs including technical and vocational courses shall be extended only to students coming from households who are qualified beneficiaries of the 4Ps as certified by the DSWD.

SEC. 4. Entitlement. – The qualified beneficiaries of the Program shall be entitled to a tuition fee supplement of at least Five thousand pesos per semester. The said amount may be increased upon approval by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

SEC. 5. Terms and Conditions. – The right of qualified beneficiaries to avail the benefits under this Act shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (a) If he fails for one (1) school year in the majority of the academic subjects he has enrolled during the course of his study unless such failure is due to some valid reason beyond his control; and

- (b) If he enrolls for the first time, or transfers outside of the region where he is residing unless the course is a priority course as determined by the CHED and is not offered in any private school in his Region.

SEC. 6. *Rules and Regulations.* - The CHED, in consultation with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the DSWD, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* The amount of Three hundred million pesos (P300,000,000.00) to be administered by CHED is hereby appropriated for its initial implementation. Such sums as maybe necessary for its continuous implementation shall be charged against the appropriations of CHED.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,