

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2874



Introduced by Representatives
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO and GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING A "TULONG-DUNONG PROGRAM" FOR STUDENTS OF
UNDERPRIVILEGED FAMILIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In Section 2 (3), Article XIV, of the Philippine Constitution, it is expressly stated that *"the State shall establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged."*

There are quite a number of scholarship grants offered by the government, both local and national, which cater to the financial capacities of students from various sectors and categories. But despite this, there is still an urgent need to extend monetary assistance to poor students who are deserving of an education.

The fact remains that underprivileged students belong to the majority group of our youth making it more imperative that they be extended additional assistance if not absolute access to quality tertiary education.

This humble proposal seeks to address this continuing problem of inadequate access to quality education through legislation to empower our underprivileged students and make them vital players towards nation-building.

In view of the foregoing, it is therefore imperative that this proposal is expeditiously passed into law.



DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Camarines Sur



GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Pampanga

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Tulong-Dunong
Program Act of 2013.*"

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – In line with the Constitutional mandate of
providing quality education for all Filipinos at all levels, more particularly at the college
level, it is hereby declared a priority policy of the state to institute measures that would
assist students from disadvantaged families.

SECTION 3. *Institution of a Tulong-Dunong Program.* – There is hereby instituted
a student financial assistance program known as the "*Tulong-Aral Program*" with the
end in view of allocating resources to augment the tuition needs of students coming
from disadvantaged families.

SECTION 4. *Definition.* – The term economically disadvantaged but deserving
students who are qualified under this program shall pertain to those students of
underprivileged families falling below the poverty line as determined by the National
Economic Development Authority (NEDA), who possesses the ability to continue and
finish a degree course.

SECTION 5. *Monthly Allowance.* – The qualified beneficiaries of this program shall be entitled to a monthly allowance of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00), tuition assistance, book allowance and other monetary assistance to be determined by the administering agency.

SECTION 6. *Lead Agency.* – The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall be the lead agency tasked with the formation of the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* – The sum of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of the funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated to finance this program.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,