



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 2038



Introduced by: **HON. CARL NICOLAS C. CARI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Dr. Nick Carden of the Renaissance Center said, “The people that we set up as heroes are people that generally go above and beyond in terms of the call of duty, they do things that are extraordinary”.

A hero is selfless, a genuinely good person, and someone who gets the undivided attention of all of us and causes change. Simply, a hero is someone willing to risk his/her own life to save another. But after all their valuable services to our nation and our people, what happens to their loved ones after they have died for us? Most of the time, their death is also the demise of their families.

Thousands of public safety officers, i.e., firefighters, police officers, natural calamities emergency responders, and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, are killed or die each year in the line of active duty. With this death, the immediate dependents of the deceased children or his/her family will find it difficult to make ends meet, like paying for the elementary, high school, and tertiary education due to the skyrocketing miscellaneous and tuition fee costs. Our first responders make sacrifices for communities across the country and beyond daily. Our government has a deep and abiding obligation to the immediate dependents/children of ‘heroes’ who have made the ultimate sacrifice. The loss of a parent takes an unimaginable toll on a child in many ways. This legislation is a commonsense step that this 18th Congress can take to ease the burden that these children confront as they prepare to enter public elementary, high school, and tertiary education.

Giving the immediate dependents of our fallen heroes a legal demandable right to public education is our country's way to remember and appreciate the bravery and selfless service of our men and women killed/died in the line of duty while protecting the sovereignty of our territory and enforcing the laws of the Philippines and/or responds to natural calamities and disasters.

This measure was previously filed in the 18th and 19th Congress by the undersigned and was referred to the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education.

It is our time to help them by helping their youth.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

CARL NICOLAS C. CARI
Representative
5th District, Leyte



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FALLEN HEROES' SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE YOUTH ACT
“The CARING Act of 2025”

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

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the “*Fallen Heroes Scholarship for the Youth Act or the Caring Act of 2025*”.

SECTION 2. Coverage and Benefit. - This Act shall cover immediate dependents, including the surviving spouse, who are interested and qualified to pursue elementary, high school, and tertiary public education, of any personnel of the PNP, AFP, BFP, BJMP, and natural calamities/disasters emergency responders, who are killed/died or who has suffered total and permanent disabilities in the line of duty, provided the person has not committed any crime or human rights violation by final judgment on such occasion.

The immediate dependents are entitled to complete exemption from the payment of tuition and matriculation fees in any public schools for elementary, secondary, and collegiate levels, excluding free school and postgraduate courses. For the purpose of this Act, tuition fees are collected by the school to pay for the instruction, while matriculation fees are collected by the school in consideration for the acceptance and registration of the student.

SECTION 3. Declaration of Policy. -

- a) *Section 12, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution*, which states: “The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception. The natural and primary right and duty of parents in the rearing of the young for civic efficiency and the development of moral character shall receive the support of the Government”.
- b) *Section 1, Article XV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution*: “The State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation. Accordingly, it shall strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development”.
- c) *Section 3 (2), Article XV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution*: “The right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development”.



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- d) *Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution*: “The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all”.
- e) *Section 2, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution*: “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”.
- f) *Section 3, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution*: “They shall inculcate patriotism and nationalism, foster love of humanity, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral character and personal discipline, encourage critical and creative thinking, broaden scientific and technological knowledge, and promote vocational efficiency”.
- g) *Article 149 of the Family Code of the Philippines* refers to 'family' as a “basic social institution which public policy cherishes and protects”.

SECTION 4. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined as:

- a) “In the Line of Duty” - while working or doing what was expected in a particular job.
- b) “Fallen Hero” - law enforcement officers who died/were killed in the line of duty.
- c) "Immediate Dependent" - refers to the legitimate, legitimated, or legally adopted, and not gainfully employed child of the fallen hero. It also includes the surviving spouse.
- d) “Total and Permanent Disability” - a fallen hero who is unable to work in his/her current occupation or any occupation suited to by his/her education, training, and experience.
- e) “Natural Calamities/Disasters Emergency Responders” - a person who is among those responsible for going immediately to the scene of a natural calamity/accident or emergency to provide assistance.

SECTION 5. *Objectives.* - The objective of this Act is to provide educational assistance to the immediate dependent of the fallen hero who are killed/died, or has suffered a total and permanent disability while on active or in the line of duty by providing educational scholarships programs as a form of recognition of the State of the bravery and service of his/her parent/s and spouse.

SECTION 6. *Scope and Limitations.* -

- a. The benefit shall be extended to two dependents of the personnel defined in this Act in the active service who have died or were incapacitated in the line of duty since 4 July 2022, and those who shall die and may be incapacitated in the line of duty hereafter.
- b. This benefit may be enjoyed for a maximum of ten (10) school years.
- c. This benefit is transferable to any of the dependents of the personnel, at the option of the next of kin, provided it will not exceed ten (10) school years.



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- d. This benefit is without prejudice to other educational benefits previously enjoyed by the personnel or their dependents.

SECTION 7. *Prerequisites and Standards.* -

- a. Admission of grantees to any school shall be in accordance with existing laws and the admission policies of the school.
- b. Except for grantees who are graduating from any school level, or except for meritorious reasons, grantees shall not be allowed to transfer from the school where they were enrolled before the grant of this benefit to another school.
- c. As long as the grantee satisfactorily passes the course of instruction based on the approved standards of the schools, he/she shall continue to enjoy the benefit. In the event of failure in any subject or school year, the benefit shall be suspended, and the grantee, at their option, may retake the failed subjects or repeat the entire school year at their own expense.
- d. The benefit shall be terminated in the event the grantee is expelled from the school or is convicted by any court for any crime involving moral turpitude.

SECTION 8. *Penal Provisions.* - Any person who shall knowingly make false representations in connection with the application and/or approval of the benefit shall be charged before a court-martial, military tribunal, or civil court, as appropriate, and shall be punished as the court-martial, tribunal, or civil court may direct.

SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act. However, the initial budgetary requirements of this Act, the amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00), is hereby appropriated for this purpose.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Head of Agencies of the Department of National Defense, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Education, Commission of Higher Education, and other concerned agencies shall formulate the necessary implementing rules and regulations to carry out the objectives and efficiently implement the provisions of this Act within 90 days after its effectivity.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, orders, issuances, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED,