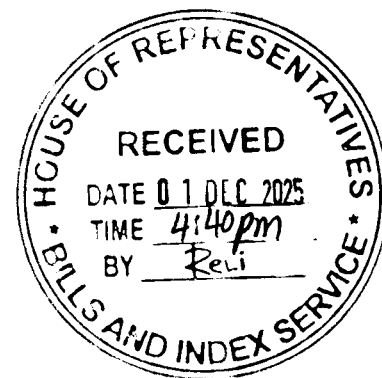


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6523



**Introduced by Representative JB BERNOS
And Representative CHING BERNOS**

**AN ACT ENSURING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN IN ATHLETIC
SCHOLARSHIPS, PRIZE AWARDS, AND OTHER SPORTS BENEFITS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In a country where women have brought home the nation's most historic athletic victories—from Hidilyn Diaz's Olympic gold to Margielyn Didal's skateboarding triumphs and Alex Eala's international tennis success—it is undeniable that Filipina athletes have proven their strength, skill, and dedication on the global stage. Yet, despite their achievements, gender disparities persist in sports programs, athletic scholarships, and prize awards across educational institutions and sporting events in the Philippines.

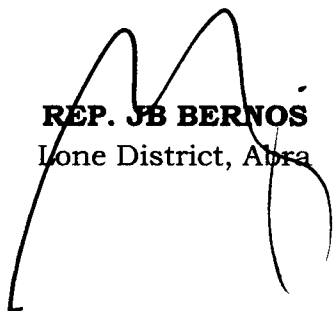
Article II, Section 14 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution explicitly provides that "The State recognizes the role of women in nation-building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men." Likewise, Republic Act No. 9710, or the Magna Carta of Women, guarantees women's equal access to scholarships and training in all fields, including sports. However, in practice, female athletes continue to receive less funding, fewer scholarship slots, and lower prize money compared to their male counterparts, perpetuating systemic inequity in athletic development and recognition.

This bill, to be known as the "Babae sa Sports Act," seeks to correct these long-standing inequalities by ensuring equal opportunity for women in athletic scholarships, prize awards, and other sports-related benefits. It mandates schools, colleges, and universities to allocate athletic scholarships without gender bias and to report transparently on scholarship distributions. Moreover, it prohibits any difference in prize value between men's and women's divisions in tournaments and sporting events.

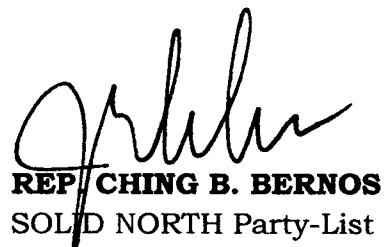
By institutionalizing gender fairness in all levels of sports participation, this measure empowers young women to pursue athletic excellence on equal footing. It

affirms that in every field of play, the strength and potential of Filipina athletes deserve equal recognition and reward.

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



REP. JB BERNOS
Lone District, Abra



REP. CHING B. BERNOS
SOLID NORTH Party-List

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6523**

**Introduced by Representative JB BERNOS
and Representative CHING BERNOS**

**AN ACT ENSURING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN IN ATHLETIC
SCHOLARSHIPS, PRIZE AWARDS, AND OTHER SPORTS BENEFITS**

*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 “Babae sa Sports Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize the role of women in nation-building, and to ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men. Sport shall not be the last bastion of sex discrimination because any kind of discrimination is repugnant to an orderly society like ours.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For the purpose of this Act, the following terms are defined:

- (a) Athletic scholarship program - refers to all benefits derived from the program given by the school, college, university or any other person, party or entity;
- (b) Sport Event or tournament - refers to any tournament, competition, contest, race, match, event, or game where a sport prize, as defined in paragraph (E) of this section, is given to winners;
- (c) Secretary - refers to the Secretary of Department of Education;
- (d) Department - refers to the Department of Education; and
- (e) Sport prize - refers to awards, premiums, incentives, rewards, gifts, or anything given to a winner of a sport event or tournament, whether monetary or not.

SEC. 4. Athletic Scholarship Program. – Schools, colleges, universities, or any other learning institutions shall take into account the gender of its total student

1.

population in granting athletic scholarships. There shall be no pro rata representation of women in the athletic scholarship program based on the percentage of women in the whole student population.

The schools, colleges, universities, or any other learning institutions shall submit an annual report in writing to the Secretary which contains the following:

- (a) The total number of the student population;
- (b) A list of athletic scholars; and
- (c) The extent of the scholarship program given to a particular individual, including a summary on how much was given to a particular scholar.

SEC. 5. Right to Know. – Students of the schools, colleges, universities or any other learning institutions shall have the right to know the information contained in the annual report required by the preceding section. Upon a written request from the students, the colleges, universities, or any other learning institutions shall furnish a copy of the annual report.

SEC. 6. Sports Prizes. – No sport event or tournament will offer or award a different sport prize, with respect to its amount or value, to women and men winners. Provided that, the said tournament, contest, race, match, event, or game is open to both sexes: Provided further that, the sport event or tournament is divided into male and female divisions.

SEC. 7. Penalty Clause. – Any violation of this Act shall be punished with a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (₱10,000.00) but not more than Twenty Thousand Pesos (₱20,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than one (1) month but not more than three (3) months or both at the discretion of the court. If the offense is committed by a corporation, trust, firm, partnership or association, or other entity, the penalty shall be imposed upon the guilty officer or officers of such corporation, trust, firm, partnership, or association, or entity.

SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act..

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. – If any portions or provisions of this Act are declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining portions or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,