



# AMCHAM PHILIPPINES

The American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.

## Statement of Support for the ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT (K-12 Reform)

The Enhanced Basic Education Act (Republic Act No. 10533, or the K-12 Law) is a milestone legislation that intends to bring the Philippines up to par with the rest of the world. K-12 will foster the development of competent graduates who will join the workforce and contribute to national competitiveness. With these in mind, we, the members of the Philippine business community, reiterate our support for the continued and proper implementation of the K-12 reform.

We acknowledge that, like any systemic reform, the K-12 initiative continues to face implementation challenges, particularly:

1. The potential displacement of tertiary faculty and staff during the 2016-2021 transition period;
2. The possible closure of higher education institutions (HEIs), particularly small colleges, due to significant revenue losses; and
3. The perception that the government is not fully prepared to meet the logistical requirements of the law in terms of faculty and staff, facilities and equipment, and learning materials, among others.

To ensure the reform's success, we strongly urge the government to address the abovementioned issues proactively, through continued dialogue with all key stakeholders. Specifically, we call on the following agencies:


1. The **Commission on Higher Education (CHED)** and the **Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)**, to clearly outline the criteria for unemployment/diminution benefits of the affected education personnel and to devise packages to support the development of post-secondary institutions during the transition period;
2. The **Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)**, to facilitate the redeployment of affected education personnel and to investigate reports of labor abuses being committed during the transition period; and

3. The **Department of Education (DepEd)**, to expedite the preparations for the full implementation of the K-12 Law and to provide regular, updated reports to concerned sectors and to the general public.

We also support the timely passage into law of the following proposed legislations that seek to contribute to addressing the abovementioned issues:

1. The **Tertiary Education Transition Fund (TETF) bill**, which seeks to provide for: (a) the financial assistance of displaced personnel during the transition period, (b) the provision of grants and scholarships to personnel to upgrade their qualifications through post-graduate studies, and (c) the development of innovative and relevant curricula, learning and teaching systems, and new processes and equipment related to the Enhanced Basic Education Program.
2. The **Unified Financial Assistance System for Higher and Technical Education (UniFAST) bill**, which aims to unify, harmonize, and increase scholarships, grants-in-aid, and loan programs of the national government for higher and technical education. By allowing an estimated half a million high school graduates access to higher education, UniFAST can also mitigate the issues of personnel displacement and revenue loss among HEIs during the transition period.

We, the undersigned, hereby affix our signature to indicate our full and undivided support to the K-12 reform and to the herein contained recommendations.



**RHICKE JENNINGS**  
President



**EBB HINCHLIFFE**  
Executive Director