Comments on Section 5 of Substitute Bill to R.A. 6728 (GASTPE Law)

or

**AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6728, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “EXPANDED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PRIVATE EDUCATION ACT”, BY EXPANDING ITS APPLICATION TO INCLUDE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PRIVATE ELEMENTARY, JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

SEC. 5. Section 7 of R.A. 6728, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7. Expansion of the Existing Educational Service Contracting (ESC) Scheme. – (a) The [Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS)] DEPED shall continue to enter into contracts with private schools whereby the government shall shoulder the tuition and other fees of ELEMENTARY, JUNIOR AND SENIOR high school students who shall enroll in private [high] schools under this program. PRIORITY SHALL BE GIVEN TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN COMMUNITIES WHERE THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS CAN NO LONGER ACCOMMODATE THE STUDENTS DUE TO THE INCREASE IN STUDENT POPULATION.

**Proposed Wording:**

…..PRIORITY SHALL BE GIVEN TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN COMMUNITIES WHERE THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS CAN NO LONGER ACCOMMODATE STUDENTS BEYOND THEIR DETERMINED **CLASS SIZE OR ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY.**

**Justification:**

**Just as much as government allocation of GASTPE slots is determined by the absorptive capacity of private schools so also the Department of Education must determine and enforce the limits of enrollment or admission in the public schools, for the following reasons:**

1. **Determining class sizes for both public and private schools will provide more specific data from schools that will ensure equitable allocation of government funds**
2. **Setting reasonable class sizes or teacher-to-students ratio will contribute to quality of instruction**
3. **Setting the absorptive capacity of public schools will regulate the budget for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses ( MOOE) which use are basically for**

c.1 Activities identified in the approved School Improvement Plan (SIP) and the revised

c.2 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) of the school

c.3 Special curricular programs and related co-curricular activities

c.4 Graduation rites, moving up or closing ceremonies and recognition activities

c.5 Supplies, rental and minor repair of tools and equipment needed in the conduct of classes and learning activities

c.6.Minor repairs of facilities, building and grounds maintenance

c.7 Annual medical examination of teachers

c.8 Semi-expendable property items worth less than Php 15,000.00 (including Technical-Vocational-Livelihood and science classes consumables) as provided in the Government Accounting Manual (GAM) issued by the Commission on Audit