July 15, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

As members of Congress who support United States leadership on global education, we urge your Administration to commit $1 billion over five years towards the Global Partnership for Education’s (GPE) 2021-2025 strategy, leading up to its financing conference co-hosted by the UK and Kenyan governments in London on July 29, 2021.

GPE is the only multilateral partnership exclusively dedicated to ensuring all children have access to a quality education and are equipped to learn. It is the only global entity that brings together all partners—international donors, the private sector, and community groups—around plans to build resilient education systems and to educate more children to higher levels across the world.

With U.S. government leadership, the world has seen great gains in learning outcomes and improved access to quality basic education. However, COVID-19 has been the largest disruption to education the world has ever seen. Without immediate action, school closures and economic hardship could combine to push millions of vulnerable children out of education and reverse decades of hard-won gains.

In 2020, GPE quickly mobilized over half a billion dollars to support partner countries’ pandemic response. It continues to be the largest provider of grants for the COVID-19 education response. GPE’s COVID-19 fund has helped governments sustain learning for 355 million children in the poorest countries, with a focus on remote learning, teacher support, and safe reopening of schools.

GPE has maintained its ability to support education globally through a track record of effectiveness, working at scale, and retaining national-level commitment from partner countries. GPE now supports 76 countries in getting their most vulnerable girls and boys to school, improving teaching, and advancing foundational learning skills—such as basic numeracy and literacy. It is also building resilient education systems capable of withstanding shocks, including pandemics, climate change, and violent conflict. Signaling the scope of GPE’s work to come, a total of ninety countries and territories are eligible for GPE support from 2021-2025, accounting for more than 80% of the world’s out-of-school children.

GPE’s innovative financing “Multiplier” helps draw in external financing for developing country partners from development banks and other donors, in support of their education sector plans. This fund provides $1 in GPE grant funds for every $3 a country secures in external financing, generating more than $882 million for education since 2018 and mobilizing nearly a billion dollars in total co-financing.

Continued U.S. leadership and financial commitments are critical to fulfilling GPE’s replenishment target of at least $5 billion from all donors at the upcoming financing conference. With these resources, GPE will be able to do the following:

- Enable 175 million primary-age children to learn
- Reach 140 million students with professionally trained teachers
- Get 88 million more children in school, more than half of them girls
o Save $16 billion through more efficient spending

U.S. leadership is needed now more than ever to ensure that COVID-19 setbacks are not long-lasting. With its innovative financing mechanisms, co-financing from developing country partners, and results-based approach, GPE will make U.S. foreign assistance go even further.

The financing conference in July is a critical moment for the U.S. to make a $1-billion, five-year pledge to the Global Partnership for Education. We encourage you to demonstrate our country’s enduring commitment to ensuring every child’s access to a quality basic education. We look forward to working with you to secure funding for this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

/s/  

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee  
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Jim Himes  
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Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress
André Carson  
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Mark Pocan  
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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney  
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Sara Jacobs  
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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
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Angie Craig  
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Cc:
Secretary Tony Blinken
Administrator Samantha Power