Bipartisan Letter to President Biden: Support Global Basic Education

Co-leads: Representative Kilmer (D-WA), Representative Fitzpatrick (R-PA)

Endorsing Organizations: Global Campaign for Education U.S, ONE Campaign, RESULTS, Save the Children, and UNICEF USA

Deadline to sign-on: COB Friday June 18

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in sending a letter asking President Biden to support the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in its multilateral efforts to ensure all children have access to a quality education.

A leading international organization in basic education, with a presence in 76 countries, GPE brings together international donors, the private sector, and community groups to build resilient education systems. During the COVID-19 pandemic, GPE has mobilized over half a billion dollars to help governments sustain schooling for 355 million children around the world. With its track record of effectively operating at scale, GPE is needed now more than ever to restore education systems ravaged by the pandemic and to return the world’s out-of-school children to the classroom.

The U.S. government has long led in advancing basic education access and improving learning outcomes across the globe. However, as the world reckons with the pandemic’s unprecedented disruption to education—pushing millions of children out of school—U.S. leadership in this space has never been more important. It is imperative that we act now, in concert with GPE and its international partners, to provide all children the foundational learning that they need and deserve.

For these reasons, we ask that the Biden Administration commit $1 billion over five years in support of GPE’s 2021-2025 strategy for basic education. This funding would be a meaningful contribution to GPE’s goal of raising $5 billion through its financing conference in July. U.S. financial support would help ensure 175 million primary-age children’s education, provide professionally trained teachers to 140 million students, and enable 88 million more children—most of them girls—to enter the classroom.

We hope you will join us in ensuring that all children are able to learn and have access to a quality basic education. To sign onto the letter, please sign with Quill using this link. For more information, please contact Bo Peard (bowen.peard@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Kilmer’s office or Evan Schuler (evan.schuler@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Fitzpatrick’s office. The deadline to sign on is COB Friday June 18.

Sincerely,

Derek Kilmer          Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress   Member of Congress
LETTER TEXT

June XX, 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
• 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,

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Cc:
Secretary Tony Blinken
Administrator Samantha Powers