

## ACTION SHEET

### Ask senators to push for vote on READ Act

Introduced by Representatives Karen Bass (D-CA) and Chris Smith (R-NJ) in the House and Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) in the Senate, the READ Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 would renew the original 2017 READ Act for an additional five years. This would guarantee the continuation of U.S. efforts to ensure equal access to quality education for children throughout the world. Bolstering global education is critical given the toll COVID has taken on accessing quality education in low-income settings, disrupting education for over 616 million students.

The READ Act reauthorization ensures that USAID updates its global education strategy to improve foundational literacy and numeracy in basic education. It also requires rigorous monitoring and evaluation efforts, more transparency and accountability, and a yearly report to Congress and the public. Specifically, the legislation calls for the development of a comprehensive and integrated U.S. strategy for improving educational opportunities and addressing key barriers to school attendance. Girls and children affected by conflict would particularly benefit. The legislation would call on the U.S. to continue coordinating governmental efforts toward efficient resource management and multi-country systems strengthening.

The READ Act reauthorization would enhance the measurement of progress in education delivery and would compel the U.S. to continue engagement with key donors and others in civil society, including the Global Partnership for Education. Through such engagement, U.S. contributions could be leveraged for maximum impact.

The U.S. government has long been a leader in global education, and the READ Act increased the effectiveness and impact of this work. Reauthorizing for another five years will maintain a well-resourced global education strategy and ensure the U.S. effectively contributes to realizing quality education around the world.

#### **Write a letter to the editor, write to your senators, engage others in writing letters, or ask a question at an election town hall meeting**

Consider organizing a group outreach activity by inviting RESULTS group members, Action Network members, and others who care about education to write letters. [Find a sample meeting agenda online.](#)

Personalize this sample letter to senators. Modify further to create a letter to the editor.

# ACTION SHEET

Subject: The Senate should vote on the READ Act Reauthorization Act of 2022

**Engage:** The COVID-19 pandemic has severely disrupted children's access to quality education around the world. School closures continue to disrupt the education of more than 616 million students.

**State Problem:** Girls, low-income children, and children with disabilities are affected the most. In low- and middle-income countries, up to 70% of 10-year-olds are unable to read a simple text. The longer vulnerable children are out of school, the less likely they are to return, and the World Bank estimates that this generation of students will lose \$17 trillion in lifetime earnings.

**Inform:** The READ Act of 2017 made a difference in the lives of millions of young people, and the READ Act Reauthorization of 2022 will allow that to continue.

**Call to Action:** Would you ask Senate leadership to bring the READ Act (H.R.4693) to the floor for a vote? The READ Act has made a difference in the lives of millions of young people, and its reauthorization will allow that to continue. Thank you for considering this champion request. I will follow up soon.

## Questions for townhall bird-dogging:

- According to UNICEF and the University of Washington School of Medicine, children of mothers with 12 years of education are 30 percent less likely to die before age 5. What do you think is the U.S.'s obligation to support global education? And will you please call on Senate leadership to bring the bipartisan READ Act to the floor for a vote?
- According to the World Bank, for each year of school completed, future wages increase an average of 10 percent. The impact is even greater than this for girls. The READ ACT of 2017 increased the likelihood that girls could complete their education and maximize their future earning potential. Will you please call on Senate leadership to bring the bipartisan Read Act to the floor for a vote?

**Additional resources**, if your group would like to explore the impact their advocacy has on global health. You can share your screen on Zoom.

- *Inspiring recording of a 2022 RESULTS International Conference session on global education:* <https://tinyurl.com/READActReauth>
- *Helpful video on the original READ Act of 2017, by the Borgen Project:* <https://borgenproject.org/tag/read-act/>