**READ Act Reauthorization (H.R.681 / S.41)**

**LASER TALK**

**Engage:** Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, but there is a phenomenon called “learning poverty,” that threatens the futures of children.

**State Problem:** While more kids are in school than ever before, too few are learning. According to the World Bank, roughly 57% of children in low- and middle-income countries experienced learning poverty in 2019 – meaning that by the age of 10, they can’t read and comprehend a simple sentence. Thanks in part to the COVID-19 pandemic, that rate has now increased to a stunning 70%.

**Inform:** But Congress can support kids getting the foundational skills they need by co-sponsoring the bipartisan, bicameral READ Act Reauthorization Act of 2023. The bill calls on the U.S. to update its foundational literacy and numeracy strategy and requires the USAID to focus on reaching vulnerable populations. It requires USAID to have robust monitoring and evaluation to improve the quality of the programs.

**Call to Action:** Children around the world need strong reading and numeracy skills to build a successful and bright future. Will you be a READ Act co-sponsor?

**NOTES**