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Global Action
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Call/Write Your Representative: Sign Letter to the President Urging a U.S. Pledge of \$250 million to the Global Partnership for Education

“June’s pledging conference is a key opportunity to leverage other donors and developing countries through a U.S. pledge of \$250 million over two years to the Global Partnership for Education. We urge you to demonstrate U.S. commitment to ensuring that all children have access to a quality basic education.”

– Sign-on letter from the House of Representatives to President Obama, April 2014

Why invest in global education? And why now?

Roughly 57 million primary school age girls and boys around the world are not attending school at all. In places like South Sudan, a young woman is more likely to die in childbirth than she is to finish 8th grade. According to just-released UN data, a staggering total of 250 million girls and boys—nearly 40% of the world’s children of primary school age—still cannot read.

Even as we work to strengthen schools in our own communities, the U.S. can help ensure the poorest and hardest-to-reach children worldwide can also go to school and learn. We’ve veered off course in our pursuit of quality education for all, but this spring we have the chance to get back on track: **donors are coming together to pledge support for [the Global Partnership for Education \(GPE\)](#), the only international organization dedicated to quality education for all.**

The Global Partnership has already helped support quality education for 22 million children in many of the world’s poorest countries. This spring, the Global Partnership aims to raise \$3.5 billion from donor governments to **support education for 29 million more of the poorest and most vulnerable children worldwide over the next 4 years.** If the Global Partnership for Education succeeds in reaching this fundraising goal, it would **leverage an additional \$16 billion from developing country governments.**

The Administration will be making the final decision on the role the U.S. will play at this June’s pledging conference – but Congress is using its voice now to urge the Administration to step up and make an ambitious pledge. Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) has initiated a letter to President Obama asking for a U.S. pledge of \$250 million over two years to the Global Partnership for Education.

In 2012, the United States made its first ever pledge of \$20 million to the Global Partnership. While this was a great start, it represents just 2.5 percent of total U.S. funding for global basic education. A two-year, \$250 million pledge from the U.S. government in June will help the Global Partnership achieve its goals for children and move the U.S. closer in commitment level to donors like the United Kingdom and Australia. Strong support from Congress on [Rep. Schakowsky’s letter](#) will be critical to securing this pledge in June.

Call and/or write your representative and urge them to sign Representative Schakowsky’s letter calling on the President to commit \$250 million over two years to support for the Global Partnership for Education at this June’s pledging conference.

Sample EPIC Phone Call Script (can be used for letters and emails too)

Instructions: Find your representative’s office number here: <http://capwiz.com/results/dbq/officials/>, or call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Call and leave a message with the receptionist. For greater impact, ask to speak with the foreign affairs aide, and send a copy of the letter via email.

Engage	I have a request for the Representative. Could you take it down for me and pass it to the aide responsible for foreign policy issues? I recently learned that a kindergartener in my community that can read is better educated than 40 percent of all the world's children between age 5 and 12. It's astonishing.
Problem	And around the world, there are still 57million primary school aged children around the world not in school and 250 million children who cannot read or write.
Inform about the solution	Supporting the Global Partnership for Education is the best way to get these children into school and build lasting education systems in poor countries.
Call to action!	I'm calling to ask the Representative to sign a letter to President Obama that is circulating in the House. The letter urges the U.S. to make a purposeful pledge to the Global Partnership for Education at a pledging conference this June. Signing this letter will send a strong message to the Administration that Congress and the American people want the U.S. to support global education in the most effective way possible. I can send you a copy.

More on the Global Partnership for Education

The Global Partnership for Education plays a unique role in global education, convening the necessary partners, including donors, developing country governments, and civil society, to build lasting education systems in poor and conflict-affected countries.

By focusing on the whole education system instead of just the separate elements that make it up, the Global Partnership's unique model has worked in places like Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where governments are now implementing their first-ever national education plans. In Afghanistan, after decades of war, a lack of service delivery mechanisms, no national curriculum, a large illiterate population, and millions of children out of school, the Global Partnership is helping rebuild Afghanistan through its Interim Education Plan, bringing stakeholders together to establish a coordinated approach to delivering education services. Enrollment in school has gone from 900,000 to 10.5 million students in recent years. Demand for the Global Partnership's support is on the rise as more countries see its success catalyzing long-term, effective education systems.

With more than 90 percent of education financing today coming from developing country governments themselves, the Global Partnership's June pledging conference gives the U.S. and other donors the opportunity to bridge the gaps that remain in poor and conflict-affected countries.

Why global education matters: Education is the foundation of all development goals

Education is a human right – and a quality education can radically change the trajectory of a child's life. But the benefits extend far beyond an individual girl or boy, helping create a healthier, more secure, and more prosperous world for all of us.

- **Economic Development:** Education is a prerequisite for economic growth: no country has achieved continuous growth without at least 40 percent literacy.
- **Maternal & Child Health:** A child born to an educated mother is more than twice as likely to survive to the age of five.
- **Security & Democracy:** People of voting age with a primary education are 1.5 times more likely to support democracy than people with no education.
- **Gender Equality:** On average, for a girl in a poor country, each additional year of education beyond third or fourth grade will lead to 20 percent higher wages.

Need more background information to make your call?

Visit www.results.org/issues/globalpartnership to learn more about the Global Partnership for Education.