Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey Chairwoman Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs H-307, U.S. Capitol Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and
Related Programs
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Rogers:

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to fighting extreme poverty and supporting education for children in need around the world. We are writing to urge you to fully support Basic Education in the fiscal year 2021 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, including funding for U.S. Government international education programs, the Global Partnership for Education, and Education Cannot Wait.

We've made remarkable progress toward the goal of education for all. Since 2000, the total number of out-of-school children and youth has dropped by over 117 million, and global primary school enrollment has grown to 91 percent. However, we have more work to do. Globally 258 million children and youth are out of school, and nearly 40 percent of primary school age children are not acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills. In conflicts and crises, these numbers are even higher. Nearly one in four children living in areas affected by conflict are missing out on their education. Far too often, hardships such as poverty, displacement, disability, and discrimination inhibit children's ability to access a quality education.

U.S. bilateral basic education programs increase equitable access to education, provide children with foundational reading, math, social and emotional skills, and prepare youth for successful careers. With the support of your Subcommittee in 2019, USAID's basic education programs reached over 42 million children and youth in more than 50 countries. Funding to expand basic education programs to vulnerable populations and address gaps in education service delivery will further strengthen education systems around the world and yield additional societal benefits for our partner counties, including improved health, economic growth, poverty alleviation, and participatory democracy.

U.S. support for multilateral partnerships, including the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Education Cannot Wait (ECW), complements our bilateral programs and leverages additional resources for this important work. U.S. investment in GPE has contributed to the enrollment of 64 million more children in primary school and a 10 percent increase in primary school completion rates. Additional funding for GPE will enable over 80 countries to provide 25 million more children access to quality education. U.S. investment in ECW has helped provide

more than 2.3 million children, youth, and teachers in 30 crisis-affected countries with a quality education and training opportunities. Continued support for ECW will ensure that resources are available to provide some 8 million children and youth in conflict and crisis settings with access to education by 2021.

We value the impact made by global basic education programs and urge the Subcommittee to fully fund the Basic Education account in the Fiscal Year 2021 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Mike Quigley

Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Member of Congres

Suzanne Bonamici Member of Congress

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore Member of Congress

Bill Foster Member of Congress Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Ron Kind

Member of Congress

Bobby L Rush

Member of Congress

John Yarmuth

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Susan Wild

Barbara Lee Donald M. Payne, Jr. Member of Congress Member of Congress Eleanor Holmes Norton Pramila Jayapal Member of Congress Member of Congress Antonio R. Delgado Rick Larsen Member of Congress Member of Congress Ted Deutch Member of Congress Member of Congress Daniel W. Lipinski Chrissy Houlahan Member of Congress Member of Congress

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Chellie Pingree

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Debbie Dingell

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Al Green Member of Congress

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Anthony G. Brown Member of Congress

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Alma Adams

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David B. McKinley, P.E. Member of Congress

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