

# Support Robust Funding for Basic Education and the Global Partnership for Education

Please join Reps. Reichert and McDermott in the call for robust funding for Basic Education and the Global Partnership for Education in fiscal year 2016. For information, or to sign onto the letter, please contact Colin Swanson (Reichert) at 5-7761 or [Colin.Swanson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Colin.Swanson@mail.house.gov), or Laura Hughes (McDermott) at 5-0105 or [Laura.Hughes@mail.house.gov](mailto:Laura.Hughes@mail.house.gov).

*\*\*The closing date for this letter is COB March 16, 2015.\*\**

March 3, 2015

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations, and Related Programs  
HT-2, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations, and Related Programs  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey:

We are writing to urge you to strongly support international basic education programs in the FY 2016 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. Through robust funding of basic education, we can help reduce poverty through economic growth, build markets for U.S. exports, enhance stability and security, and promote effective development across sectors.

Unfortunately, education is increasingly under attack by extremists who feel threatened by the power of education. Recent attacks by Boko Haram in Nigeria and the Taliban in Pakistan are shocking examples of this fear. We must join with young people like Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani girl who defied the Taliban and risked her life demanding the right to an education. Through quality basic education programs, we can help ensure all children are able to fulfill their potential and have access to a better life.

Improving the education of the world's poor is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty, violence and to strengthening communities. Education equips millions with the tools needed to forge a path to self-sufficiency and better lives. Mounting evidence shows that educating girls is one of the most cost-effective ways to spur development and create a ripple effect throughout society. In addition, education programs not only teach children but also help improve their health and safety.

In many countries, the school is the center of the community and can serve an important role in also facilitating health and food programs. Quality education has been shown to lower child and maternal mortality rates, increase life expectancy, and significantly decrease vulnerability to deadly diseases around the globe. For example, a recent study found that half of the reduction of child mortality was due to better education of women. This is especially important in places like

South Sudan where a young girl is three times more likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth than to reach the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

The United States government is not tackling these problems alone, and investments in basic education strengthen the cooperative response of the international community to the education crisis. By focusing on clear goals in strong bilateral programs, including literacy and access to education for children in areas of conflict and crises, the U.S. is able to build relationships with other education actors around our common goals and share our unique technical knowledge and capabilities to ensure more children are in school and learning. Similarly, U.S. support of other donors and multilateral organizations complements bilateral programs, fosters coordination and builds on the commitment of developing countries. For instance, Global Partnership for Education developing country partners last year provided significant amount of resources to build their countries' own education systems.

As representatives of the U.S. taxpayer, we value the lasting impact made by global basic education programs and urge your Subcommittee to strongly support international basic education programs in the fiscal year 2016 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Dave Reichert

Member of Congress

Jim McDermott

Member of Congress

