

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security,
Department of State, and Related Programs
HT-2 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lois Frankel
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security,
Department of State, and Related Programs
HT-2 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Frankel:

Thank you for your continued bipartisan commitment to fighting poverty and improving education for children in need around the world by including \$737.6 million for the Nita M. Lowey Basic Education Fund in the House-passed FY2026 National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs (NSRP) bill, and \$691.5 million for the account in the final version of the bill. This funding would support the statutory requirements outlined in the bipartisan Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development (READ) Act of 2017 (Division A, [Public Law 115–56](#)) and the bipartisan READ Act Reauthorization of 2024 ([Sect. 7812 of Public Law 118-159](#)).

Recognizing that international basic education programs are an effective form of American diplomacy and an important soft power tool, we are writing to urge you to provide \$970 million for the Nita M. Lowey Basic Education Fund in the FY2027 NSRP bill, including \$121.6 million for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), and \$30.4 million for Education Cannot Wait (ECW).

Strengthening Diplomacy: U.S. leadership in global education is an effective instrument of American statecraft. Education programs align current and future generations with American values, strengthen bilateral relationships, and grow new trade partners. By leading education programs, we deny China and other adversaries footholds into low- and middle-income countries, particularly those in strategic geopolitical regions and those with access to critical minerals. Educational opportunities in the Western Hemisphere can encourage young people to build their lives at home instead of attempting to immigrate to the U.S.

Increasing Security and Global Stability: Research shows that increasing access to education makes us safer by reducing political violence and conflict. Doubling the percentage of youth with secondary education can cut the risk of conflict in half, and secondary education can reduce the likelihood of young people supporting political violence by 48%.

Growing Trading Partners: Education programs pave the way for GDP growth, creating markets for U.S. exports and building strong trade partners. For every additional year of schooling, hourly wages in adulthood increase by 9%.

U.S. leadership in education should be coupled with support for initiatives such as the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Education Cannot Wait (ECW). These programs leverage additional resources and support local engagement. GPE is a public-private partnership that supports more than 90 lower-income partner countries to develop their own pathways to transform their education systems. ECW, the global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises, provides refugees, internally displaced persons, and other affected populations with comprehensive and context-specific assistance to access learning opportunities.

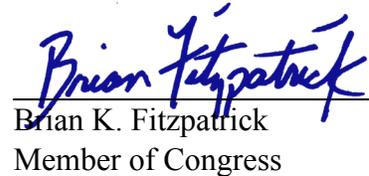
It is a critical time to invest in international education: an estimated 278 million children risk being out of school globally by the end of 2026. One in six children live in areas affected by conflict, and nearly half of all refugee children were out of school in 2024. Providing educational opportunities for these children and youth will provide a pathway for them to respect and admire the U.S. and its values, avoid political conflicts, and support their countries' trade partnership with America.

To create a world where American children can be safe and prosperous, we must preserve and support international basic education programs by providing \$970 million for the Nita M. Lowey Basic Education Fund, including \$121.6 million for GPE and \$30.4 million for ECW in the fiscal year 2027 National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



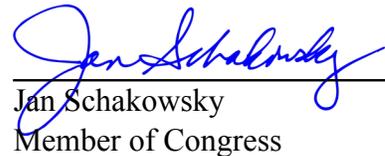
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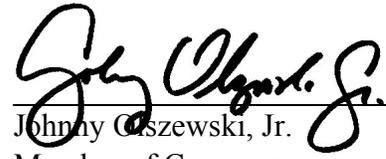
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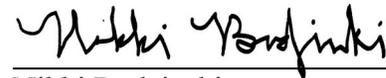
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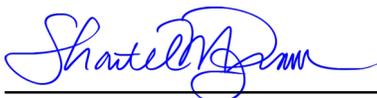
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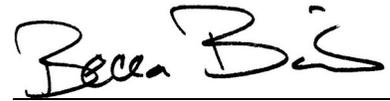
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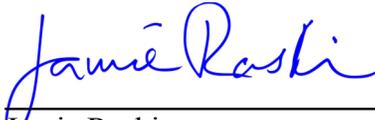
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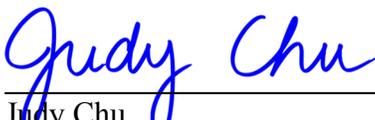
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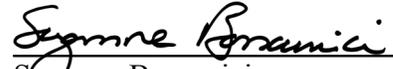
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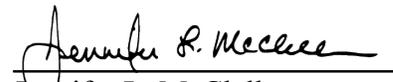
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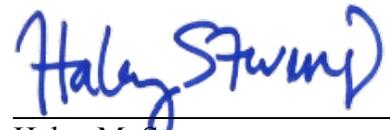
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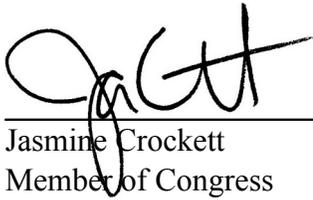
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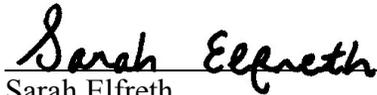
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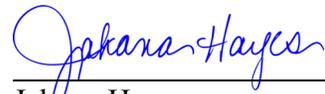
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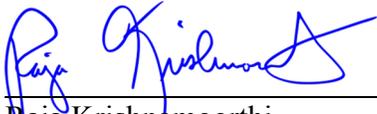
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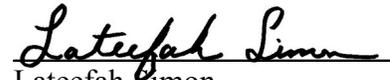
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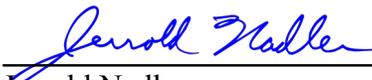
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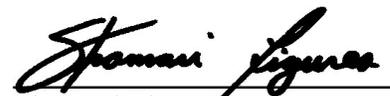
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