

## Join the International Basic Education Caucus

Dear Colleague,

Today, 121 million children and adolescents are still not in school worldwide. Over half of these out-of-school children are girls. More than a third live in areas affected by conflict or fragility, and these numbers continue to grow. Pre-primary education remains out of reach for the poorest children who would benefit the most, reaching only 19 percent of children in low-income countries. Even among those children who do make it into the classroom, nearly 40 percent of the world's children of primary school age are failing to learn basic literacy and numeracy skills.

Through international basic education, we can help end 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. By supporting quality basic education programs worldwide, we can help ensure all children are able to fulfill their potential and have access to a better life.

Looking ahead, U.S. leadership will be critical to sustaining global progress, combating increased attacks on education, and helping achieve education for all.

Through the International Basic Education Caucus, members of Congress will:

- Help increase support in Congress for international basic education programs.
- Increase member and staff understanding of global education challenges and build bipartisan support to address these issues.
- Establish a platform to respond quickly to global events such as recent terrorist attacks on schools in Nigeria and Kenya.

To join the caucus, please contact Colin Swanson ([Colin.Swanson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Colin.Swanson@mail.house.gov)) with Congressman Dave Reichert or Shira Siegel ([Shira.Siegel@mail.house.gov](mailto:Shira.Siegel@mail.house.gov)) with Congressman Mike Quigley.

Sincerely,

Congressman Dave Reichert (R-WA)

Congressman Mike Quigley (D-IL)