

# Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

May 27, 2014

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As members of Congress who support United States leadership on global education, we urge your administration to commit \$250 million over two years at the upcoming pledging conference for the Global Partnership for Education on June 26 in Brussels.

Despite efforts by the U.S. and the international community, 57 million children do not attend primary school and 250 million children – nearly 40 percent of the world’s children of primary school age – cannot read, write, or count. We know that we cannot end extreme poverty without education. If all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty.

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is the only international organization exclusively dedicated to ensuring all children have access to a quality education and are learning. The Partnership focuses on building strong, lasting education systems, not just the separate elements that make them up. It is the only global entity that brings all partners, including international donors, the private sector, and community groups, together around a single national education plan. Thanks to this model, countries like Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and post-conflict Afghanistan are now implementing their first-ever national education plans.

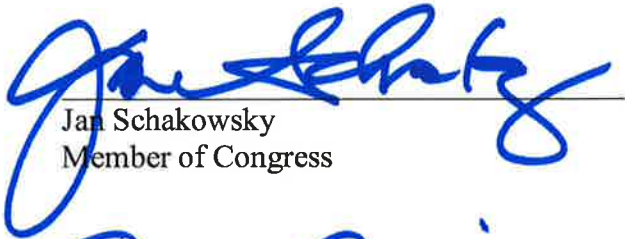
If donors fulfill the Global Partnership’s replenishment target of \$3.5 billion at the June pledging conference, the organization will be able to support 29 million children in primary and secondary school and help increase the number of children completing primary school with literacy and numeracy skills by 25 percent by 2018. Importantly, donor contributions have the power to leverage an additional \$16 billion in developing country partners’ domestic financing for education.

To date, the Global Partnership for Education has allocated \$3.7 billion to nearly 60 low-income countries. In the last ten years, the Partnership has assisted these partner countries to enroll 22 million children in school, construct over 53,000 classrooms, and train more than 300,000 teachers. Primary school net enrollment rates in GPE developing country partners rose from 66 percent in 2000 to 81 percent in 2011, a higher rate of improvement than developing countries not a part of the Partnership.

Once low-income countries join the Global Partnership, they demonstrate their commitment to educating their own people – on average, domestic financing to education as a share of the GDP in GPE countries increased by 10 percent after they joined the Global Partnership. Even now, more than 90 percent of education financing today comes from developing country governments themselves. It is up to the U.S. and other donors to help bridge the gaps that remain in poor and conflict-affected countries.

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 and are learning, and we look forward to working with you to ensure funding for this important initiative.

Sincerely,



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



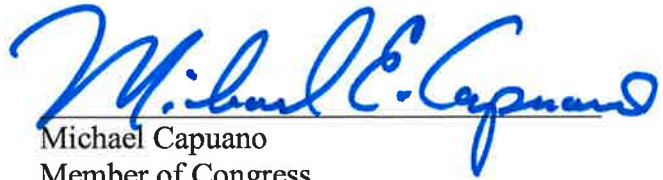
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G.K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



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Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



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Michael Capuano  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



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Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress



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Yvette Clarke  
Member of Congress

*Grace F. Napolitano*

Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

*Eleanor H. Norton*

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

*Frank Pallone Jr.*

Frank Pallone  
Member of Congress

*Donald Payne Jr.*

Donald Payne Jr.  
Member of Congress

*Gary Peters*

Gary Peters  
Member of Congress

*Chellie Pingree*

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

*Mark Pocan*

Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

*David Price*

David Price  
Member of Congress

*Mike Quigley*

Mike Quigley  
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*Charles Rangel*

Charles Rangel  
Member of Congress

*Lucille Roybal-Allard*

Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

*Bobby L. Rush*

Bobby Rush  
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*Tim Ryan*

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

*Jose E. Serrano*


Jose Serrano  
Member of Congress

*Carol Shea-Porter*

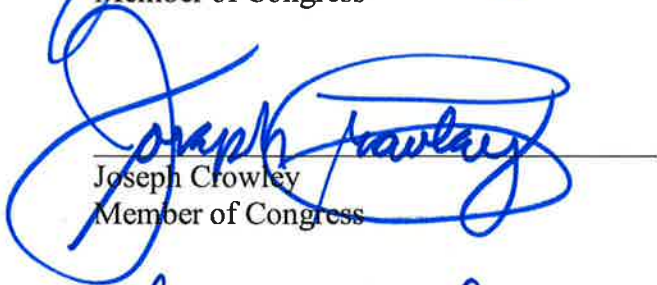
Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress

*Albio Sires*


Albio Sires  
Member of Congress


  
John Conyers Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

  
Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress

  
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

  
Susan Davis  
Member of Congress

  
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress


  
John Delaney  
Member of Congress

  
Rosa DeLauro  
Member of Congress

  
Suzan DeBene  
Member of Congress

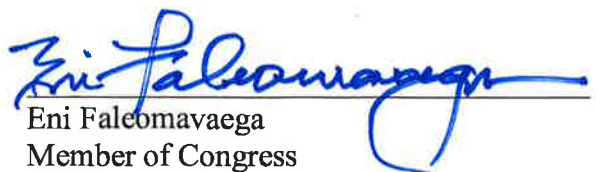
  
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

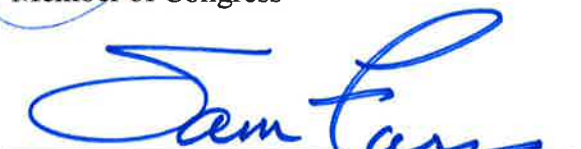
  
Donna F. Edwards  
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Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

  
Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

  
Eni Faleomavaega  
Member of Congress

  
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress




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Gene Green  
Member of Congress



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Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



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Denny Heck  
Member of Congress




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Rubén Hinojosa  
Member of Congress



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Rush Holt  
Member of Congress



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Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



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Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress




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Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



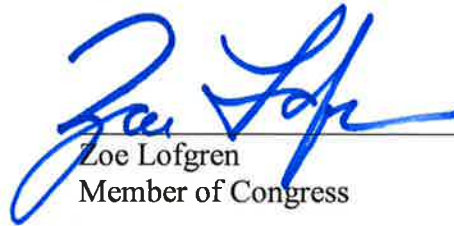
Sander Levin  
Member of Congress



John Lewis  
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Dave Loebsack  
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Zoe Lofgren  
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Alan Lowenthal  
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Ben Ray Luján  
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Michelle Lujan Grisham  
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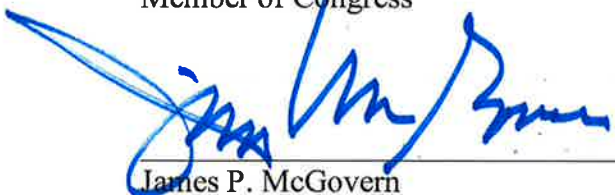
Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy  
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



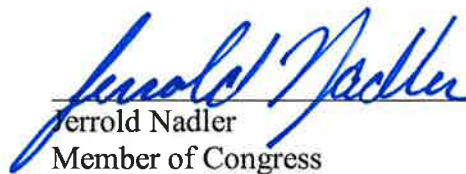
Gregory Meeks  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



James Moran  
Member of Congress

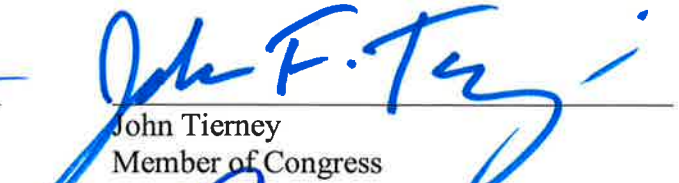



Ferrel Nadler  
Member of Congress

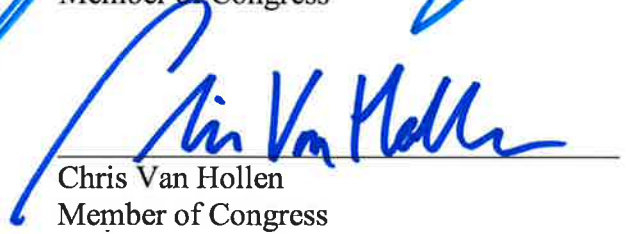
  
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

  
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

  
John Tierney  
Member of Congress

  
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

  
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress

  
Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress

  
Henry Waxman  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable John Kerry, Secretary of State,  
The Honorable Rajiv Shah