

CO-SIGN SFOPS LETTER ON INTERNATIONAL BASIC EDUCATION

Senator Van Hollen invites colleagues to sign the below letter urging the SFOPS Subcommittee to fully fund the International Basic Education account in FY2020. Funding for international education initiatives – including bilateral education programs, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), and Education Cannot Wait (ECW) – promotes equitable access to education, increased school enrollment, and the provision of quality education to crisis-affected countries. These programs can play an essential role in delivering education to the 262 million children who are out of school globally and to the nearly 40% of primary school age youth who are not acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills. Crucially, American support for international education will strengthen our relationships with other countries and advance our common interest in building a more equitable and prosperous world.

***FY2019 Cosigners:** Blumenthal, Cantwell, Merkley, Stabenow, Wyden, Markey, Coons, Feinstein, Hirono, Shaheen, Peters, Baldwin, Heinrich, Gillibrand, Sanders, Menendez, Brown, Murphy, Booker, and Cardin.*

The deadline to co-sign is April 12 COB.

If you have any questions or would like to sign on, please contact Paul Warnke (Paul.Warnke@vanhollen.senate.gov / 8-0684)

Thanks!

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Leahy:

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 support fully the Basic Education account in the fiscal year 2020 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill by providing robust funding for Basic Education programs, including strong funding for bilateral 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 111 million and global primary school enrollment has grown to 91 percent. However, we have more work to do. 262 million children and youth are out of school globally 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 focus on increasing equitable access to education, providing early learners with foundational skills, and preparing youth for successful careers. With the support of your Subcommittee, USAID reached over 109 million learners in more than 50 countries from 2011-2017,

including 22.6 million children living in conflict or crisis settings. Advancing inclusive quality education through U.S. bilateral programming is critical to achieve sustainable economic growth, poverty alleviation, social stability, and participatory democracy.

U.S. support for international organizations, 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 765,000 children and youth in 19 crisis-affected countries with a quality education. Continued support for ECW will ensure that resources are available to provide 8.9 million children and youth in conflict and crisis settings with access to education by 2021.

American support for these education programs in developing nations will help build the next generation of leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators, strengthen our important ties with countries around the globe, and promote our common interest in building a more stable, prosperous and equitable world.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely