

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 18, 2015

Support Funding for International Basic Education

****This is a Programmatic Request****

Deadline: March 25, 2015

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in urging the State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee to strongly support international basic education programs in the fiscal year 2016 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.

Improving the education of the world's poor is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty and violence and strengthening communities. Education equips millions with the tools needed to forge a path to self-sufficiency and better lives. By focusing on clear goals in strong bilateral and multilateral programs at USAID and the Global Partnership for Education, the United States can ensure that scarce federal dollars are being used effectively to make sure more children are in school and learning.

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 stand with children like Malala Yousafzai, the young Pakistani girl who defied the Taliban and risked her life demanding the right to an education. Through quality basic education, we can support safe learning opportunities for children in conflict and crisis situations, helping all children fulfill their potential and have the chance at a better life.

Finally, investments in education will make our aid dollars go further. Investments in nations with higher rates of education are more lasting and sustainable. For example, young people who have completed primary education are roughly half as likely to contract HIV and AIDS as those with little or no education.

U.S. aid dollars spent on international education are not a gift to developing nations, but a strategic global investment from which we will see a return in the form of improved markets, enhanced stability and, ultimately, self-sufficiency.

We hope you will join us in urging the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee to provide robust funding for international basic education programs in the fiscal year 2016 appropriations bill.

The deadline to sign onto this letter is close of business on **March 25, 2015**. To sign on please contact: **Ryan Evans** in Senator Isakson's office (Ryan_Evans@isakson.senate.gov) or **Joshua Esquivel** in Senator Feinstein's office (Joshua_Esquivel@feinstein.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Johnny Isakson



Dianne Feinstein

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Leahy:

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.

Improving the education of the world's poor is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty and violence and 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 economic development and create a ripple effect throughout society. In addition, education programs not only teach children but also help improve their health and safety.

But 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 stand with children like Malala Yousafzai, the young Pakistani girl who defied the Taliban and risked her life demanding the right to an education. Through quality basic education, we can support safe learning opportunities for children in conflict and crisis situations, helping all children fulfill their potential and have the chance at a better life. Through these education programs, we can continue to work with communities to restore access to schools, reintegrate child soldiers and refugees, and provide life skills training to youth.

The United States government is not tackling these problems alone, and investments in basic education strengthen the collective response of the international community. By focusing on clear goals in strong bilateral and multilateral programs at USAID and the Global Partnership for Education, including literacy and access to education for children in areas of conflict and crises, the U.S. can ensure that scarce federal dollars are being used effectively to make sure more children are in school and learning.

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

Sincerely,