

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Co-Sponsor H.R. 5117, the Education for All Act of 2010

Dear Colleague:

We urge you to join us in cosponsoring legislation (HR 5117) to ensure that the United States continues to play a lead role in helping all children have access to a quality, basic education.

Basic education is a fundamental development priority. Education – particularly for girls – can have profound consequences for reducing poverty, spurring economic growth, reducing infant mortality and halting the spread of HIV/AIDS in the developing world. No country has reached sustained economic growth without achieving near universal primary education. And at a time when winning hearts and minds remains vitally important, we must recognize that the fires of fanaticism are less likely to take hold in better educated, healthier, more stable societies. In countries plagued by violence and strife, and riddled with poverty, education is an equalizing force. That’s one of many reasons why the 9/11 Commission concluded that ensuring educational opportunity is essential to U.S. efforts to defeat global terrorism.

In 2000, the United States, along with over 170 nations, committed to the goal of achieving universal basic education by 2015. The good news is that since then, Congress has worked in a bipartisan manner to dedicate increasing resources to basic education. The global community has also helped by forming the Education for All Fast Track Initiative. This effort is already helping donors work together to support poor nations with a strong commitment to a national education plan which serves all their children.

Yet despite such gains, we are far off track to meet the goal of a quality education for all children by 2015. Across the globe, there are at least 72 million children of primary school age today without access to adequate education. Three-fifths of them are girls, and over half of the children out of school live in fragile and conflict-affected states. Large financing gaps remain for countries with strong education plans, and even less is being done for the tens of millions of children in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Our bill authorizes a continuum of education services for children living in developing countries, conflict zones, and other emergency situations. It:

- calls on the President to develop a comprehensive strategy to meet the 2015 Education for All goal;
- recognizes that it is imperative to focus on strategies for reaching the most disadvantaged children – girls who live in poor, remote areas; child laborers; children with disabilities; victims of sex trafficking; and children who are orphaned or negatively impacted by the HIV/AIDS virus;
- supports reforming and improving multilateral education financing institutions such as a new Global Education Fund that can leverage private sector commitments to education;
- supports activities to help train teachers, build schools, develop effective curricula, and increase access to school lunch and health programs;

- fosters schools as centers of communities by bringing together parents, students, teachers and government officials to support holistic development of communities; and
- prioritizes support to countries with the greatest need based on the percentage of kids out of school and with the greatest opportunity to expand access and improve equality.

The time for action is now. A coordinated effort is needed to make sustainable and lasting change. We ask for your support to ensure that all children have access to a quality, basic education. To cosponsor or for more information please contact Ann Vaughan (ann.vaughan@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Lowey's office or Michelle Brennan (michelle.brenan@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Reichert's office.

Respectfully,



Nita Lowey
Member of Congress



David Reichert
Member of Congress