

# Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

October 27, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

Knowing of your commitment to promoting educational opportunities for all children, we are writing to urge the United States to make a three-year, \$375 million commitment to the Global Partnership for Education at the November 7-8 replenishment conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Global Partnership for Education (formerly the Education for All- Fast Track Initiative) is the only multilateral initiative dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to a quality education. Despite efforts by the U.S. and the international community, there are still 67 million primary-school age children not in school and millions more who drop out because of under-resourced schools and economic burdens. Unless we take new action, more children will be out of school in 2015 than today.

Every additional \$1 million invested in the Global Partnership for Education would mean that 74 new classrooms will be constructed, 8,000 more children will enter primary school, 500,000 textbooks will be distributed, or 1,000 teachers will receive a year of training. A \$375 million commitment by the United States would provide just 15% of the \$2.5 billion that the Global Partnership needs to meet urgent funding needs by poor countries.

To date, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) has allocated over \$2.2 billion in support of 46 low-income countries. GPE has funded the construction of more than 30,000 classrooms; training for more than 337,000 teachers; and the enrollment of 19 million additional children in school in partner countries. Between 2002 and 2009, the number of children enrolled in school in GPE countries went up 48 percent. Further, 68 percent of girls completed primary school in GPE countries in 2008, compared with only 56 percent in the same countries in 2002.

The new Global Partnership for Education charter underscores the sense of “partnership” as one of mutual accountability that links increased donor support for education to recipient

countries' policy performance and accountability for results. This initiative encourages greater investment in education from partner country governments. GPE countries increased their own domestic expenditures for primary education by 6 to 9 percent per year between 2000 and 2005, higher on average than their economic growth in the same period.

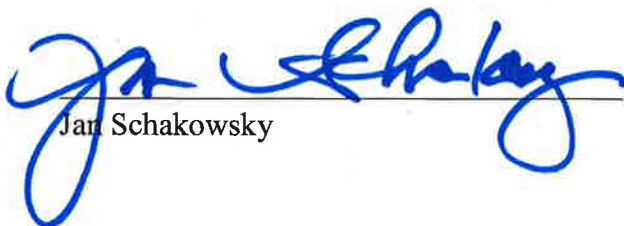
The Global Partnership for Education now has a critical opportunity to mobilize global commitments to meet some of the greatest challenges to universal education: (1) At least 42 percent of the world's out-of-school children live in fragile or conflict-affected poor countries; (2) Of the 67 million out-of-school children, 36 million are girls; and (3) The quality of education in developing countries is unacceptably low — about half of children in the lowest-income countries cannot read anything at all at the end of grade 2. As a result, the replenishment will focus on a three-pillared policy agenda focusing on fragile and conflict-affected states, girls' education, and learning outcomes.

Education is the foundation of all other development goals, including the Obama Administration's commitments on maternal and child health and food security. The Global Partnership supports programs and policies that are complementary to our bilateral education efforts. Funding through the Global Partnership leverages commitments from other donors and from developing countries, thus ensuring our aid dollars go farther. Financing through Global Partnership also directly supports development and implementation of stronger national education plans — strengthening the national response — as well ensuring donor coordination. The Global Partnership also reduces overhead expenses, allowing the U.S. to scale up education efforts, especially in fragile countries, so that more children can benefit.

As you are aware, education, particularly education of girls, is critical for economic development. Economic opportunity is, in turn, a key factor in short- and long-term stability and peace. You have been a steadfast champion for girls' education, and now is the moment for the United States to mobilize donors and developing countries by pledging \$375 million over three years to the Global Partnership for Education. We urge you to demonstrate U.S. commitment to ensuring that all children have access to quality basic education at the upcoming replenishment conference, and we look forward to working with you to ensure funding for this important initiative.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jan Schakowsky



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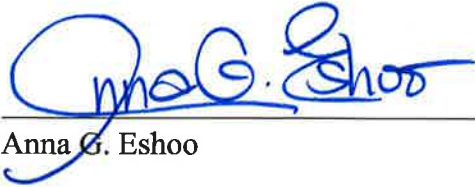
Robert E. Andrews



Diana DeGette



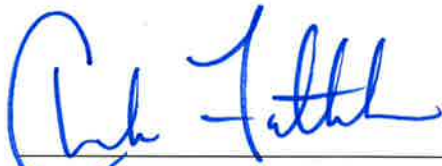
Keith Ellison



Anna G. Eshoo



Sam Farr



Chaka Fattah



Bob Filner



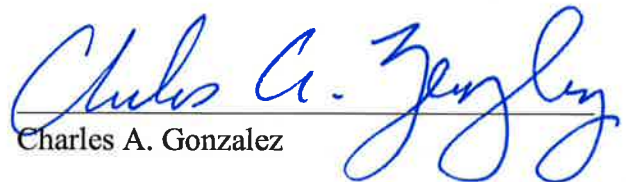
Barney Frank



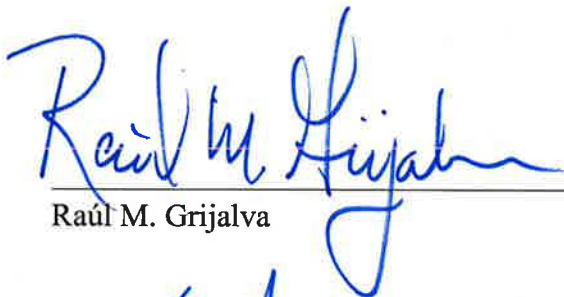
John Garamendi



Gene Green



Charles A. Gonzalez



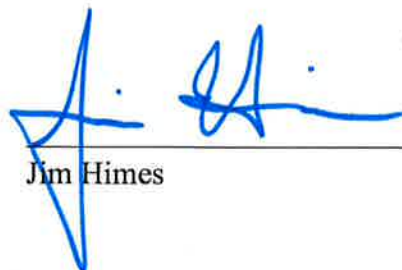
Raúl M. Grijalva




Alcee L. Hastings



Martin Heinrich



Jim Himes



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Maurice Hinchey



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Rush Holt



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Michael Honda



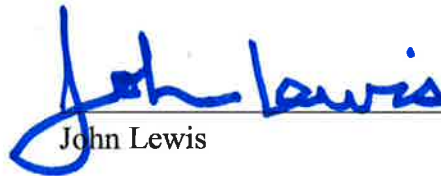
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Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.



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Sheila Jackson Lee



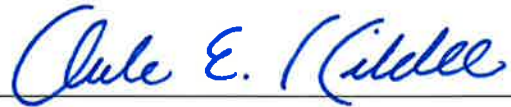
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John Lewis



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Karen R. Bass



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Dale E. Kildee



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Barbara Lee



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Sander Levin



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Zoe Lofgren



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Ben Ray Luján



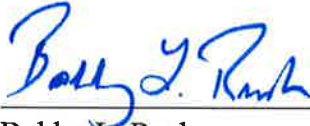
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Carolyn B. Maloney



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Jim McDermott



Bobby L. Rush



Tim Ryan



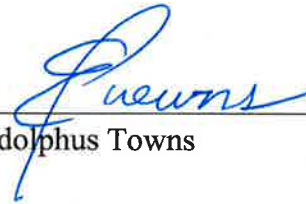
Albio Sires



Jackie Speier




Pete Stark



Edolphus Towns



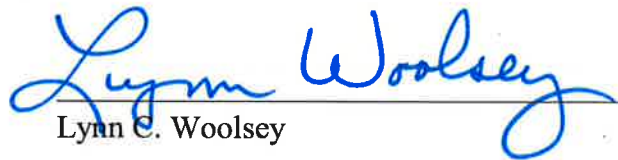
Chris Van Hollen



Henry A. Waxman



Peter Welch



Lynn C. Woolsey

  
Tammy Baldwin


  
Shelley Berkley


  
Earl Blumenauer

  
Madeleine Z. Bordallo


  
Brad Miller

  
Lois Capps

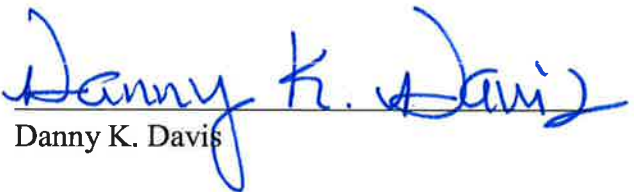
  
André Carson

  
Kathy Castor

  
Donna M. Christensen

  
Yvette Clarke

  
John Conyers, Jr

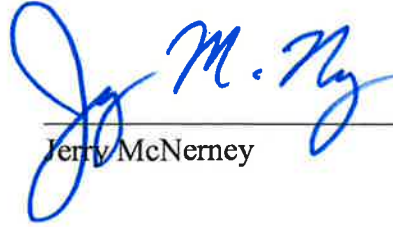
  
Danny K. Davis

  
Susan Davis

  
Rosa L. DeLauro



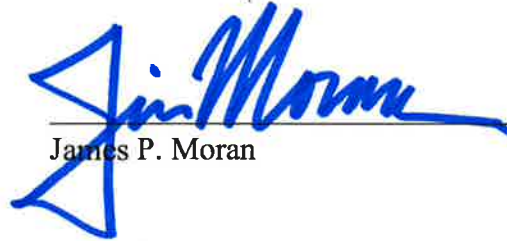
James P. McGovern



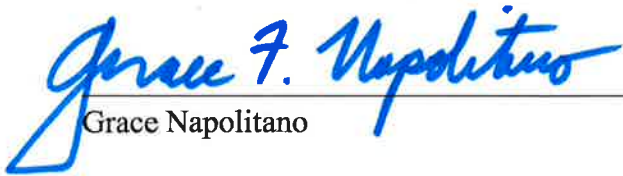
Jerry McNerney



Gwen Moore



James P. Moran



Grace Napolitano



Eleanor Holmes Norton



Frank Pallone



Bill Pascrell



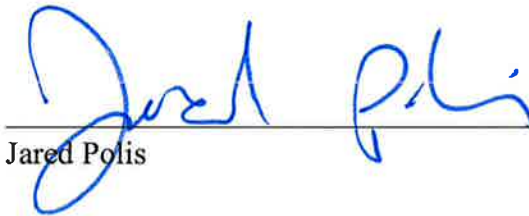
Donald M. Payne



Gary C. Peters



David E. Price



Jared Polis



Laura Richardson



Steven R. Rothman

*George Miller*

George Miller