

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lee and Ranking Member Rogers:

Thank you for your commitment to fighting extreme poverty and improving education for children in need around the world. We are writing to urge you to provide strong support for Basic Education in the fiscal year 2022 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, including funding for U.S. Government international education programs, the Global Partnership for Education, and Education Cannot Wait.

COVID-19 has disrupted the education of over 91 percent of the world's children and youth and severely exacerbated a pre-existing global learning crisis. For children who have been deprived of access to school and distance learning during the pandemic, learning loss and other harms pose a generational threat that could widen existing gaps in educational and economic attainment in low- and middle-income countries. Research indicates that a three-month school closure could cost children over a year's worth of learning and, if left unaddressed, many children may never catch up.

U.S. Basic Education assistance strives to increase access to quality education, provide children with foundational reading, math, social and emotional skills, and prepare youth for successful careers. To recover from COVID-19 globally and prepare for future emergencies that could further disrupt education, U.S. foreign assistance will need to support improved access to distance learning materials and technology, safe school reopening plans, reenrollment initiatives for out-of-school children and youth, and curriculum and teaching adaptation to ensure that all students get back on track and reach their full potential.

U.S. support for multilateral partnerships, including the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Education Cannot Wait (ECW), complements our bilateral programs and leverages additional resources for this important work. During the COVID-19 pandemic, multilateral

organizations have been quick to respond to the dire education needs of children. GPE has mobilized \$500 million to help developing countries mitigate both the immediate and long-term disruptions to education being caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. ECW activated \$140 million in 2020, including through its First Emergency Response fund, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which aims to reach 32 million children in 34 countries.

To sustain and enhance international efforts to support learning during and after COVID-19, it will be imperative for the Subcommittee to fully fund Basic Education in the Fiscal Year 2022 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

/s/
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

/s/
Dina Titus
Member of Congress

/s/
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

/s/
John B. Larson
Member of Congress

/s/
Katie Porter
Member of Congress

/s/
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

/s/



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

/s/
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

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Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

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Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

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Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

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Robin L. Kelly
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Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

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Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

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Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

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Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress

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Kaiali'i Kahele
Member of Congress

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Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

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John Garamendi
Member of Congress

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Gerald E. Connolly
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Jahana Hayes
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Peter Welch
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Mike Levin
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Anthony G. Brown
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Danny K. Davis
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Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress

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Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

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Joe Neguse
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Jamaal Bowman
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Jimmy Panetta
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James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

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Dean Phillips
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André Carson
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Deborah Ross
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Stephanie Murphy
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Elaine Luria
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Colin Allred
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G.K. Butterfield
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Sara Jacobs
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Donald Norcross
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Gwen Moore
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Abigail D. Spanberger
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Albio Sires
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Andy Kim
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Maxine Waters
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Judy Chu
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.
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David N. Cicilline
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William R. Keating
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Salud Carbajal
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Rick Larsen
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Jan Schakowsky
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Marylin Strickland
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Zoe Lofgren
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Hakeem Jeffries
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Steve Cohen
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Juan Vargas
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Jamie Raskin
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A. Donald McEachin
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Jesús G. “Chuy” García
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Jim Cooper
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James P. McGovern
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Nydia M. Velazquez
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Richard E. Neal
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Eddie Bernice Johnson
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Marie Newman
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Jim Himes
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Dwight Evans
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Joseph D. Morelle
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Ilhan Omar
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Karen Bass
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Lisa Blunt Rochester
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Debbie Dingell
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Frank Pallone, Jr.
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Diana DeGette
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Conor Lamb
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Joe Courtney
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John Katko
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Jason Crow
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Brian Higgins
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Bill Foster
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Ron Kind
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Elissa Slotkin
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Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress