

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Programs

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Programs

March 23, 2015

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of the Global Campaign for Education-US (GCE-US), a diverse coalition of more than 70 organizations working to ensure quality education for all, **I write to urge you to support effective investments in education globally by allocating \$800 million to basic education, and \$125 million for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in the FY 2016 State and Foreign Operations Bill.** This funding will ensure that the United States continues to play a leadership role in the effort to achieve quality Education for All.

Thanks to U.S. support for global basic education millions of children around the world are now in classrooms and learning and USAID and the GPE are playing pivotal roles in ensuring quality education for all children. Nonetheless, as recent events in Nigeria, Pakistan, and Syria, have shown, education is under attack. There are still 58 million children who do not get the chance to go to school and 28.5 million of those children live in conflict zones; a basic education provides these children a sense of normalcy and security.

Investing in education is not only the right thing to do, it's also a smart use U.S. resources. Education increases security and stability, spurs economic growth, and provides proven results across development sectors, reducing overall costs. If all students in low-income counties left school with reading, numeracy and citizenship skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty. Education for girls is particularly effective; children born to educated mothers are half as likely to be malnourished and twice as likely to be immunized against disease.

The Global Partnership for Education has played a leading role in providing education in the lowest-income countries and U.S contributions to the GPE will contribute to the development of sustainable national education systems owned and led by developing country partners. GCE-US is encouraged to see an increase in proposed funding to \$70 million for GPE in the President's FY 2016 budget. We believe, however, that a \$125 million contribution will be critical for the GPE as it seeks to support the education of 29 million children in the poorest countries around the world and will ensure that the U.S. continues to lead in providing quality education.

While we recognize the challenges of the current budget environment we urge this funding not come at the expense of other effective humanitarian and development assistance and strongly support increased funding for the entirety of poverty-focused development accounts, which work together to serve the common goal of building a safer and more prosperous world.

Continued bipartisan congressional commitment to this issue positions the United States as a leader in global progress towards quality education for all. **By allocating \$800 million to basic education, and \$125 million for the Global Partnership for Education in the FY 2016 State and Foreign Operations Bill, Congress can ensure millions more children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.**

Sincerely,



Dr. Edwin H. Gragert
Executive Director
Global Campaign for Education-US