

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

March 30, 2017

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

We are writing to urge you to strongly support international basic education programs in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. Through robust funding of global 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.

Unfortunately, education is increasingly under attack by extremists who feel threatened by the power of education. Attacks by Boko Haram in Nigeria and the Taliban in Pakistan are shocking examples of this fear. We must join with young people like Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani girl who defied the Taliban and risked her life demanding the right to an education. Through quality basic education programs, we can help ensure all children are able to fulfill their potential and have access to a better life.

Improving the education of the world's poor is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty, violence, and to 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 development, recover from crisis and conflict and create a ripple effect throughout society.

In many countries, the school is the center of the community and can serve an important role in also facilitating health and food programs. Quality education has been shown to lower child and maternal mortality rates, increase life expectancy, and significantly decrease vulnerability to deadly diseases around the globe. This is especially important in places like South Sudan where a young girl is three times more likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth than to reach the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

U.S. investments that focus on the effective and efficient use of taxpayer dollars are vital to ensure children have access to a quality education. By focusing on clear goals in strong bilateral programs, including literacy and access to education for children in areas of conflict and crises, the U.S. is able to build relationships with other education actors around our common goals and share our unique technical knowledge and capabilities. Similarly, U.S. support of other donors and international organizations like the Global Partnership for Education complements bilateral programs, fosters coordination, and builds on the commitment of developing countries.

As representatives of the U.S. taxpayer, we value the lasting impact made by global basic education programs and urge your Subcommittee to strongly support international basic education programs in the FY2018 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. We appreciate your consideration of our request.

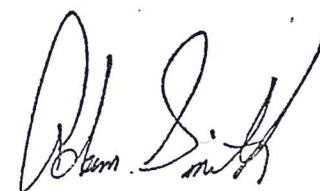
Sincerely,

  
DAVE REICHERT  
Member of Congress

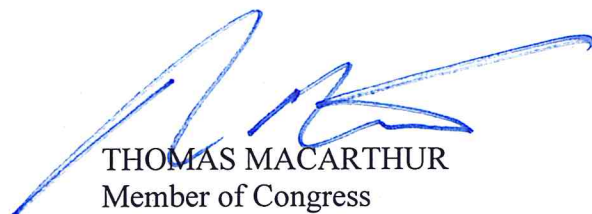
  
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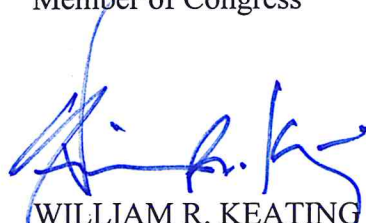
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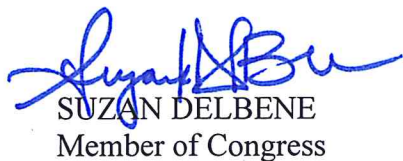




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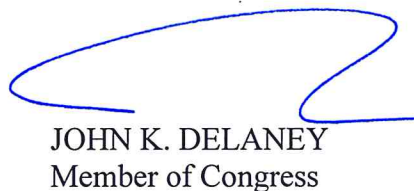
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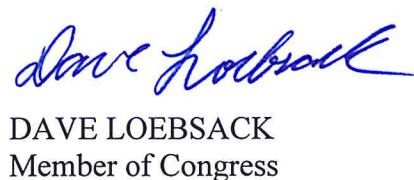
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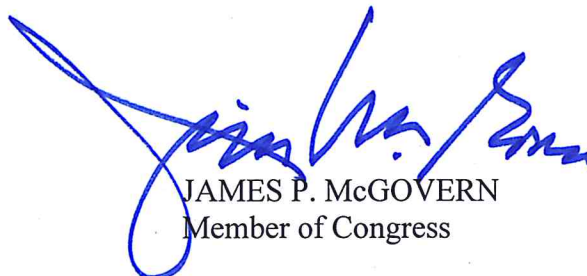
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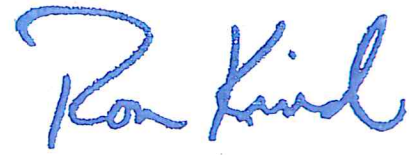
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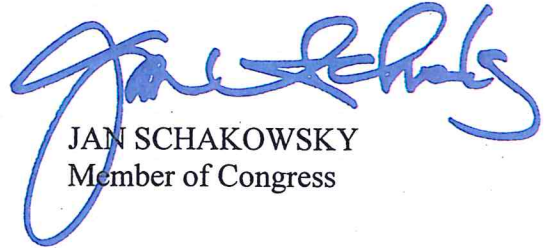
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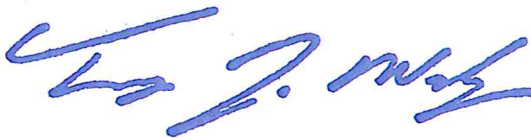
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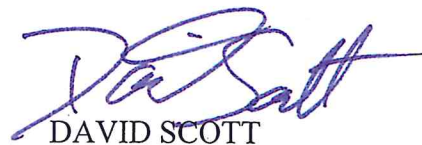
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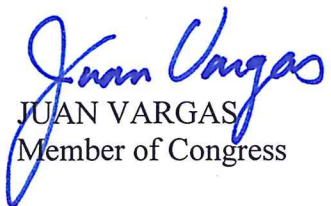
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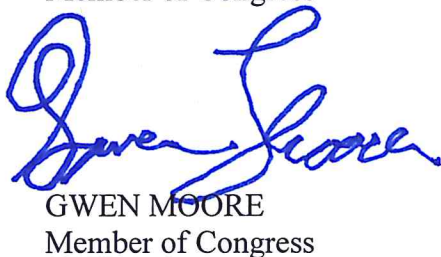
  
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