

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 17, 2022

The Honorable Christopher Coons  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
SD-127  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,  
and Related Programs  
SD-190  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Coons and Ranking Member Graham:

Thank you for your ongoing bipartisan commitment to fighting 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 2023 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, including funding for U.S. Government international education programs, the Global Partnership for Education, and Education Cannot Wait.

The need for international education assistance has increased exponentially as nearly all children have had their education disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The latest World Bank estimates show that global learning poverty - the proportion of 10-year-olds unable to read a short, age-appropriate text - could increase from 53 percent to around 70 percent of children living in low- and middle-income countries. Furthermore, learning loss, increased dropout, poor nutrition, and social isolation all threaten the ability of children and youth to complete their education on time and lead healthy, peaceful, and successful lives, with specific concern for girls and children with disabilities who are more susceptible to education disruptions. If left unaddressed, the long-term ramifications of inaction at the global level are real and severe, as lower educational attainment can lead to less economic opportunity and worse health outcomes. Education is an essential lifeline in times of crisis, and investments in international education are needed to mitigate the harmful effects of the pandemic on the lives of children and youth.


U.S. international basic education programs strive to increase access to quality education; to provide children with foundational reading, math, social and emotional learning skills; and to prepare youth for successful careers in 57 countries. To further help students recover from the harmful effects of COVID-19 globally and to return to learning, U.S. foreign assistance needs to build upon and enhance current efforts to re-engage all learners, assess and address learning loss, support educators, provide psychosocial and protection services, and increase emergency preparedness and response capacity in partner countries.

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. GPE mobilized \$500 million in accelerated funding support to help developing countries mitigate both the immediate and long-term disruptions to education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic by supporting educational opportunities for up to

355 million children in 67 countries. Through ECW's first emergency rapid response, multi-year funding platforms, and the COVID-19 education emergency response, ECW has reached over 29.2 million children and more than 88,000 teachers 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 2023 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator




Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator




Tina Smith  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



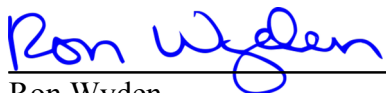
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Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senator



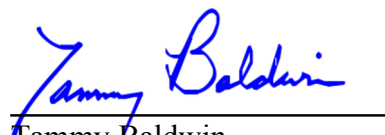
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Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



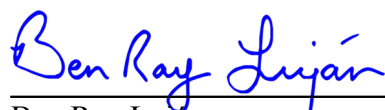
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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



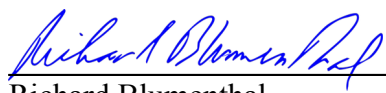
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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



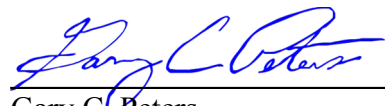
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Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



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Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator




Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



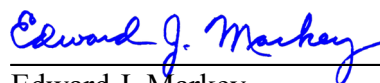
Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



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Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

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Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



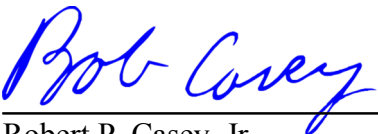
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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



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Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



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Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator