

The Keeping Girls in School Act

H.R. 2153 and S. 1071

Addresses the barriers facing girls' education to support their education, empowerment and economic security

Background: Globally, 130 million girls ages 6-17 who should be in school are not. Evidence shows that enrolling and keeping girls in school can positively impact their health, economic prosperity, and the security of their communities and countries. Unfortunately, barriers such as child marriage, harassment and violence in schools, and social discrimination keep girls from benefitting from long-term, quality education, thereby perpetuating poverty and increasing girls' risks of health concerns and social disenfranchisement.

This bill: The bill addresses gaps in current policy and practice and brings critical attention to programs and policies supporting adolescent girls' access to and continued enrolment in quality education by focusing positively on overcoming barriers that stand in their way. The Keeping Girls in School Act could¹:

- Add \$92 billion to the economies of low and middle-income nations;
- Cut child deaths by 50 percent;
- Reduce child marriage by 66 percent;
- Decrease violent conflict by 37 percent; and
- Increase girls' future wages by up to 20 percent for every year enrolled.

Specifically, the Keeping Girls in School Act:

- Is budget neutral
- Outlines and highlights a non-exhaustive list of 14 barriers that girls face in entering and remaining in secondary education institutions.
- Requires that the *U.S. Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls* be reviewed and updated every 5 years.
- Emphasizes both *access to* and *quality of* education for girls and requires that assistance programs focus on reducing specific barriers adolescent girls face in attaining educational opportunities.
- Leverages innovative financing mechanisms to build broader and stronger partnerships globally to promote girls' access to education and continued learning. This allows U.S. Government agencies to work alongside private sector partners to multiply the impact of their investments in social change.
- The bill also will help to fight poverty and advance America's national security interests by promoting opportunities that could lead to more stability abroad.

¹ Statistics are according to UNESCO, the Education Policy and Data Center, CARE, the Global Partnership for Education, and the World Bank.

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