READ Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (H.R.7240/ S.3928)

The Problem: Currently, 58 million primary school-aged children globally do not attend school and 260 million do not have access to quality education. Gender discrimination in school contributes to the illiteracy of over 500 million women in adulthood as well. These issues, along with frequent global conflicts, undermine the benefits of education. The negative secondary consequences of COVID-19 have exacerbated these barriers over the last three years as well.

The Solution: On Sep. 8, 2017, the Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development (READ) Act was signed into law. The READ Act emphasizes the value of education for economic growth and social mobility as it promotes educational programs around the world. Through the READ Act, partnerships for educational development will have greater oversight, coordination and a renewed focus on retention. H.R.7240/ S.3928 reauthorizes the READ Act for an additional five years continuing such as work as:

- **Leveraging U.S. capabilities** through technical assistance, training and research;

- Appointing a USAID employee to the role of Senior Coordinator of United States International Basic Education Assistance. The Senior Coordinator is responsible for strategic development, coordination and oversight of programs and activities that promote international basic education;

- **Improving the quality of basic education** by supporting educational goals in lower-income countries, replicating successful education interventions and measuring learning outcomes in students, especially for girls and young women;

- Amending previous goals of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 in order to develop a coordinated, sustainable and aid-effective plan with partner countries, donors, multilateral institutions, the private sector and nongovernmental and civil society organizations to promote quality basic education through programs that:
  - Respond to the needs of countries to achieve improvements in literacy
  - Strengthen education systems and expand access to safe learning
  - Promote education as a foundation for sustained economic growth

Education can reduce poverty, increase incomes and economic growth, foster peace, reduce child marriage and maternal death, decrease violence and extremism, promote gender equality and save lives.

Supporters: U.S. Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL), along with Reps. Karen Bass (D-CA) and Chris Smith introduced the bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the READ Act on March 28, 2022.