



Keeping Girls in School Act (H.R.2153/ S.1071)

The Problem: Across the world, 130 million girls are not enrolled in school. Girls ages 10-19 are three times more likely than boys to be kept out of school, particularly in countries affected by conflict. When girls reach adolescence, they are at a high risk of dropping out due to forced marriage, pregnancy or family pressure.

Why focus on girls' secondary education?

- If all girls complete a secondary education, child marriage rates will be reduced by two-thirds and child deaths will be cut in half, saving three million lives.
- Equality between boys' and girls' education levels can decrease the likelihood of violent conflict by as much as 37 percent.
- Studies show that girls' wages rise by as much as 20 percent for every year beyond fourth grade that they attend school.
- If every girl receives 12 years of free, safe, quality education, lifetime earnings for women could increase by \$15-30 trillion globally.

The Solution: The Keeping Girls in School Act empowers girls around the globe by increasing educational opportunities and economic security. Specifically, the Keeping Girls in School Act:

- requires the Department of State and USAID to review and update the U.S. global strategy to empower adolescent girls. The strategy would be updated every 5 years and submitted to the appropriate congressional committees.
- authorizes USAID to enter into results-based and traditional grant project proposals to reduce the barriers that adolescent girls face in accessing quality secondary education. These agreements would integrate innovative technologies and funding mechanisms including public-private partnerships and development impact bonds.
- employs monitoring and evaluation strategies to ensure that programs significantly close the gender gap in secondary education.

The Keeping Girls in School Act recognizes that every child deserves equal opportunity to access quality education and that the U.S. has been a global leader in efforts to expand and improve educational opportunities, particularly for girls. The collective economic benefits of girls' education will help to lift households, communities and nations out of poverty which is key to advancing U.S. foreign policy objectives.

Supporters: The Keeping Girls in School Act was introduced in the House by Reps. Frankel (D-FL), Lowey (D-NY), Brooks (R-IN) and Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and in the Senate by Sens. Shaheen (D-NH) and Murkowski (R-AK).