



## Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act (H.R.4508)

**The Problem:** Compared to the global rate of 40 percent, the **rate of higher education enrollment for girls and women in Pakistan is just 9 percent.** In addition, in Pakistan, **less than 6 percent of women 25 and older attain a bachelor's degree.** This is despite the fact that economic returns for college graduates are the highest in the entire educational system--an average 17 percent increase in earnings per year of schooling.

**The Solution:** The U.S. already provides critical foreign assistance to Pakistani women. Since 2010, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has awarded more than 6,000 scholarships for young women to receive higher education in Pakistan. The Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act ensures that the **USAID Administrator awards at least 50 percent of the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program to women** for each of the calendar years 2020 through 2022.

### Other Noteworthy Facts:

- On October 9, 2012, while on her way home from school, Malala was shot in the head by a member of the Pakistani Taliban. After recovering in the U.K., Yousafzai launched the Malala Fund which works to **secure 12 years of safe, free, quality education for all girls.**
- The bill encourages the Department of State and USAID to continue their **support for education initiatives directed by the Government of Pakistan and civil society** that promote education in Pakistan, especially education for women, in line with USAID's 2018 Education Policy.
- The bill directs the USAID Administrator to leverage investments by the Pakistani private sector and Pakistani communities in the U.S. to **improve the quality of, expand access to and ensure the sustainability of education programs in Pakistan.**
- Rep. Jeffries (D-NY-8) told The Borgen Project, "When girls are able to fulfill their education, they help **lift their families, communities and nations out of poverty.** The Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act would **expand the pipeline of disadvantaged women entering higher education in Pakistan.** It's a strong step in the right direction."
- "Let us wage a glorious struggle against illiteracy, poverty, and terrorism. Let us pick up our books and our pens. They are the most powerful weapons. **Education is the only solution.**" - Malala Yousafzai's speech to world leaders at the U.N. in 2013.

**Supporters:** The Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act was introduced by Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY-8) and Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO-2). On December 18, 2019, the legislation **passed the House Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously.**