



Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act (S.1580)

The Problem:

- Currently, **only 50 percent of refugee children have access to primary education.** Refugees are five times more likely than non-refugees to be out of school.
- **25 million children in conflict zones are missing out on school,** and girls are particularly affected: 76 percent of girls in South Sudan and 55 percent of girls in Afghanistan are missing out on primary school. When women and girls are denied access to education, it hinders their ability to find jobs, engage in civil society and access other economic opportunities.
- **Women's incomes rise by 10 to 20 percent for each year of schooling.** Women with higher levels of education are more likely to participate in the labor force, engage in paid employment, earn more for their families over their lifetimes, and have healthier children who stay in school longer.

The Solution: The bipartisan Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act will increase transparency, improve coordination and intensify the impact of efforts to support access to primary and secondary education for displaced people, with a specific focus on the educational needs of women and girls in foreign assistance programs. Specifically, the legislation:

- **Prioritizes the educational needs** of vulnerable women and girls when designing, implementing and evaluating U.S. foreign assistance policies and programs;
- **Builds the capacity** of institutions in countries hosting displaced people to prevent children from facing educational discrimination;
- **Ensures that women and girls are included** and considered in the design, implementation and execution of programs related to the advancement of education;
- **Evaluates the impact** the program has on the reduction of activities that affect girls in vulnerable settings, such as child marriage, gender-based violence and forced labor;
- **Encourages coordination** with private sector and civil society organizations to promote safe primary and secondary education for displaced children, and with multilateral organizations to collect data on the effectiveness and sustainability of programs.

Cost: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects that H.R.2408 / S.1580, would cost U.S. taxpayers less than \$500,000 over a four-year period (2018-2022).

Other Noteworthy Facts

- S.1580 was introduced into the Senate by Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL), Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV).
- H.R.2408 was reintroduced into the 115th Congressional session by Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH-1) and Rep. Robin Kelley (D-IL-2). The bill secured 50 Republican and Democratic cosponsors and passed the House by voice vote on Oct. 3, 2017.