



## **Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act (H.R.2408 / S.1580)**

**The Problem:** Currently 50 percent of the 65 million displaced peoples in the world are under the age of 18. One in four of these children does not have access to primary or secondary education. Women and girls in these vulnerable settings are often disproportionately denied access to education, which can hinder their ability to find jobs, engage in civil society and access other economic opportunities.

**The Solution:** The Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act (H.R.2408 / S.1580) will prioritize efforts to support access to primary and secondary education for displaced people, with a specific focus on the inclusion of women and girls' educational needs in foreign assistance programs. This bill promotes gender equity and fairness, creates safe and accessible educational environments, and contributes to the reduction of extremism in vulnerable areas.

### **Key Points**

- Encourages countries hosting displaced peoples to support efforts that guarantee displaced youths have access to safe, quality primary and secondary education.
- 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 as outlined in the [Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000](#), such as child marriage, gender-based violence, and forced labor.
- Authorizes the Secretary of State and the Administrator for the USAID to coordinate with multilateral organizations like the World Bank and the U.N. to implement programs that collect data separated by sex and age.
- Strengthens training and capacity for the governments hosting displaced peoples to coordinate with the U.N., the World Bank, local and international NGOs and civil society organizations to effectively design and implement programs which address barriers to equal education.

**Cost:** Cost estimate has not yet been received by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

### **Other Noteworthy Facts**

- H.R.2408 is a bipartisan bill and was reintroduced into the 115th Congressional session by Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH-1) and Rep. Robin Kelley (D-IL-2). S.1580 was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ).
- H.R.2408 may be cited as the "Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act" or the "Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act."
- Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act was originally introduced in the 114th Congressional session (July 2016) as H.R.5735 by Rep. Steve Chabot. However, the Senate did not introduce a companion version of this legislation.