



READ Act Reauthorization Act (H.R.681/S.41)

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 also exacerbated these barriers over the last three years.

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.681/S.41 reauthorizes the READ Act for an additional five years continuing such work as:**

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

Other Noteworthy Facts:

- The original READ Act called for the appointment of 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.**
- Since the READ Act's implementation, **over 122 million learners and educators have been reached** through programs that are expanding access to quality education for all.
- Education reduces poverty, increases incomes and economic growth, fosters peace, reduces child marriage, decreases violence and extremism, promotes gender equality and saves lives.
- The Senate passed its version of the READ Act Reauthorization on November 6, 2023.

Supporters: Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) introduced this bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the READ Act on January 24, 2023. Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ-04) and Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY-06) introduced the House companion on January 31, 2023.