



Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development Act or READ Act (S.623)

The Problem: Currently, 59 million primary school-aged children globally do not attend school and 250 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 and attacks upon schools, undermine the benefits of education.

The Solution: The READ Act (S.623) is a bipartisan initiative that will further advance quality basic education for all, while protecting U.S. national security interests.

Key Points

- Leverages the United States' capabilities through technical assistance, training and research.
- The President appoints a current 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.
- Improves the quality of education by supporting educational goals in developing countries, replicating successful education interventions and measuring learning outcomes in students, especially for girls and young women.
- Amends previous goals of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 in order to develop a coordinated, sustainable and aid-effective plan to promote universal basic education.
- Implementation of this bill promotes and contributes to an overall increase in economic growth for underdeveloped countries, improves democratic institutions of government, encourages empowerment for women and young girls and likely decreases extremism in politically vulnerable underdeveloped countries.

Cost: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projected that the 114th Congressional version of a similar bill, called the Education for All Act (H.R.4481), would cost U.S. taxpayers less than \$500,000 over a five-year period (2017 - 2021).

Other Noteworthy Facts

- Senators Rubio (R-FL) and Durbin (D-IL) introduced S.623 in the 115th Congress.
- The U.S. House of Representatives passed its version of the bill, H.R.601, on Jan. 24, 2017.
- On the passage of H.R.601, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA-39) [noted that](#), the bill, “introduces new guidelines and increases accountability for existing U.S. efforts to improve access to basic education in developing and conflict-torn countries.”