

Calendar No. 603

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**H. R. 3583**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 20, 2014

Received; read twice and placed on the calendar

AN ACT

To expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women under the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Malala Yousafzai
5 Scholarship Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
8 ings:

1 (1) On October 9, 2012, Malala Yousafzai was
2 shot in the head by Pakistani Taliban on her way
3 home from school.

4 (2) In late 2008, Malala began writing a blog
5 for BBC Urdu under a pseudonym pressing the case
6 for access to education for women and girls despite
7 objections from the Pakistani Taliban.

8 (3) Malala’s advocacy for the education of
9 women and girls made her a target of the Taliban.

10 (4) The Taliban called Malala’s efforts to high-
11 light the need for education for women and girls an
12 “obscenity”.

13 (5) On July 12, 2013, Malala celebrated her
14 16th birthday by delivering a speech before the
15 United Nations General Assembly in which she said,
16 “So let us wage a glorious struggle against illiteracy,
17 poverty, and terrorism. Let us pick up our books
18 and our pens. They are the most powerful weapons.
19 One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can
20 change the world. Education is the only solution.”.

21 (6) According to the United Nation’s 2012
22 Education for All Global Monitoring Report, “Paki-
23 stan has the second largest number of children out
24 of school [in the world]” and “nearly half of rural
25 females have never been to school.”.

1 (7) According to the World Bank, “The benefits
2 of women’s education go beyond higher productivity
3 for 50 percent of the population. More educated
4 women also tend to be healthier, participate more in
5 the formal labor market, earn more income, have
6 fewer children, and provide better health care and
7 education to their children, all of which eventually
8 improve the well-being of all individuals and lift
9 households out of poverty. These benefits also trans-
10 mit across generations, as well as to their commu-
11 nities at large.”.

12 (8) According to United Nation’s 2012 Edu-
13 cation For All Global Monitoring Report, “education
14 can make a big difference to women’s earnings. In
15 Pakistan, women with a high level of literacy earned
16 95 percent more than women with no literacy
17 skills.”.

18 (9) In January 2010, Secretary of State Hillary
19 Rodham Clinton stated, “We will open the doors of
20 education to all citizens, but especially to girls and
21 women * * * We are doing all of these things be-
22 cause we have seen that when women and girls have
23 the tools to stay healthy and the opportunity to con-
24 tribute to their families” well-being, they flourish
25 and so do the people around them.

1 (10) The United States provides critical foreign
2 assistance to Pakistan’s education sector to improve
3 access to and the quality of basic and higher edu-
4 cation.

5 (11) The Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship
6 Program administered by the United States Agency
7 for International Development (USAID) awards
8 scholarships to academically talented, financially
9 needy Pakistani students from all regions, including
10 remote areas of the country, to pursue bachelor’s or
11 master’s degrees at participating Pakistani univer-
12 sities.

13 (12) Fifty percent of the 974 Merit and Needs-
14 Based Scholarships awarded during fiscal year 2013
15 were awarded to Pakistani women. Historically, only
16 25 percent of such scholarships have been awarded
17 to women. Starting in the fall of 2013, USAID has
18 committed to provide 50 percent of all scholarships
19 to women.

20 (13) The United Nations declared July 12,
21 2013, as “Malala Day”—a global day of support for
22 and recognition of Malala’s bravery and courage in
23 promoting women’s education.

24 (14) On October 10, 2014, Malala Yousafzai
25 became the co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for

1 her “struggle against the suppression of children
2 and young people and for the right of all children to
3 education”.

4 (15) On December 10, 2012, the United Na-
5 tions and the Government of Pakistan launched the
6 “Malala Fund for Girls’ Education” to improve
7 girls’ access to education worldwide, with Pakistan
8 donating the first \$10,000,000 to the Fund.

9 (16) More than 1,000,000 people around the
10 world have signed the United Nations Special Envoy
11 for Global Education petition calling on the Govern-
12 ment of Pakistan to enroll every boy and girl in pri-
13 mary school.

14 (17) Pakistani civil society organizations col-
15 lected almost 2,000,000 signatures from Pakistanis
16 on a petition dedicated to Malala’s cause of edu-
17 cation for all.

18 (18) Engagement with Pakistani diaspora com-
19 munities in the United States, who have unique per-
20 spectives, access, and opportunities to contribute to
21 stability and economic growth in Pakistan, will be a
22 critical element of a successful United States pro-
23 gram to promote greater access to education for
24 women and girls.

1 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) every individual should have the opportunity
4 to pursue an education;

5 (2) every individual, regardless of gender,
6 should have the opportunity to pursue an education
7 without fear of discrimination;

8 (3) educational exchanges promote institutional
9 linkages between the United States and Pakistan;
10 and

11 (4) recipients of scholarships referred to in sec-
12 tion 4 should commit to improving their local com-
13 munities.

14 (b) CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR EDUCATIONAL INITIA-
15 TIVES IN PAKISTAN.—Congress encourages the Depart-
16 ment of State and the United States Agency for Inter-
17 national Development to continue their support for initia-
18 tives led by the Government of Pakistan and Pakistani
19 civil society that promote education in Pakistan, especially
20 education for women.

21 **SEC. 4. MERIT AND NEEDS-BASED SCHOLARSHIP PRO-**
22 **GRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United
24 States Agency for International Development (referred to
25 in this Act as the “USAID Administrator”) shall award
26 at least 50 percent of the number of scholarships under

1 the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program (re-
2 ferred to in this Act as the “Program”) to women for each
3 of the calendar years 2014 through 2016.

4 (b) LIMITATIONS.—

5 (1) CRITERIA.—The scholarships available
6 under subsection (a) may only be awarded in accord-
7 ance with other scholarship eligibility criteria already
8 established by USAID.

9 (2) ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES.—Scholarships au-
10 thorized under subsection (a) shall be awarded for a
11 range of disciplines to improve the employability of
12 graduates and to meet the needs of the scholarship
13 recipients.

14 (3) OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS.—The USAID Ad-
15 ministrator shall make every effort to award 50 per-
16 cent of the scholarships available under the Program
17 to Pakistani women.

18 (c) LEVERAGING INVESTMENT.—The USAID Ad-
19 ministrator shall, to the greatest extent practicable, con-
20 sult with and leverage investments by the Pakistani pri-
21 vate sector and Pakistani diaspora communities in the
22 United States as part of USAID’s greater effort to im-
23 prove the quality of, expand access to, and ensure sustain-
24 ability of education programs in Pakistan.

1 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The USAID Administrator shall
3 designate appropriate USAID officials to brief the appro-
4 priate congressional committees, not later than 1 year
5 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
6 thereafter for the next 3 years, on the implementation of
7 section 4.

8 (b) CONTENTS.—The briefing described in subsection
9 (a) shall include, among other relevant information, for
10 the most recently concluded fiscal year—

11 (1) the total number of scholarships that were
12 awarded through the Program, including a break-
13 down by gender;

14 (2) the disciplines of study chosen by the schol-
15 arship recipients;

16 (3) the percentage of the scholarships that were
17 awarded to students seeking a bachelor's degree or
18 a master's degree, respectively;

19 (4) the percentage of scholarship recipients who
20 voluntarily dropped out of school or were involun-
21 tarily pushed out of the program for failure to meet
22 program requirements; and

23 (5) the percentage of scholarship recipients who
24 dropped out of school due to retaliation for seeking

1 an education, to the extent that such information is
2 available.

Passed the House of Representatives November 19,
2014.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.

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