

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3612

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance to expand, improve, support, and promote primary and secondary education for displaced children, including girls, from areas designated by the Department of State as areas of conflict.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2017

Mr. PAYNE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance to expand, improve, support, and promote primary and secondary education for displaced children, including girls, from areas designated by the Department of State as areas of conflict.

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 “Prioritizing Education
5 in Conflict Zones Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE PRIMARY AND SEC-**
2 **ONDARY EDUCATION FOR DISPLACED CHIL-**
3 **DREN FROM AREAS OF CONFLICT.**

4 The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended by
5 inserting after section 105 (22 U.S.C. 2151c) the fol-
6 lowing new section:

7 **“SEC. 105A. ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE PRIMARY AND SEC-**
8 **ONDARY EDUCATION FOR DISPLACED CHIL-**
9 **DREN FROM AREAS OF CONFLICT.**

10 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of State and
11 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
12 national Development, acting through the Director of Ref-
13 ugee Educational Assistance designated pursuant to sub-
14 section (c), is authorized to provide long-term assistance
15 to expand, improve, support, and promote primary and
16 secondary education for displaced children from areas of
17 conflict.

18 “(b) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Assistance provided
19 under subsection (a) shall, to the maximum extent prac-
20 ticable, be used to—

21 “(1) build the capacity for private sector and
22 civil society organizations with a stated purpose of
23 educating children, including girls, in the areas of—

24 “(A) development and strengthening of
25 primary and secondary curricula;

1 “(B) coordination with educational facili-
2 ties of host countries; and

3 “(C) technical capacities and expertise, in-
4 cluding strategies for cost-effective procurement
5 of science and technology equipment;

6 “(2) establish, expand, and promote linkages
7 and partnerships between host countries’ educational
8 facilities, private sector and civil organizations, and
9 United States colleges and universities education
10 programs; and

11 “(3) assist with efforts to educate women and
12 girls.

13 “(c) DIRECTOR OF REFUGEE EDUCATIONAL ASSIST-
14 ANCE.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days
16 after the date of enactment of this section, the Ad-
17 ministrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
18 national Development shall designate a Director of
19 Refugee Educational Assistance, who shall report di-
20 rectly to the Administrator, and who shall carry out
21 the responsibilities described in paragraph (2).

22 “(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities
23 referred to in paragraph (1) include—

24 “(A) ongoing consultations with and the
25 provision of technical advice to host country

1 governments, particularly ministries of edu-
2 cation, regional organizations, and public ter-
3 tiary and related educational institutions, and
4 education and educators' organizations with re-
5 spect to carrying out the activities described in
6 subsection (b);

7 “(B) coordination and administration of
8 long-term assistance authorized under sub-
9 section (a) in support of the activities described
10 in subsection (b); and

11 “(C) coordinating with other bureaus with-
12 in the United States Agency for International
13 Development, with other relevant United States
14 Government agencies, with the United States
15 and international private sectors, with the pri-
16 mary and secondary education community and
17 relevant research organizations in the United
18 States and host countries, and with other bilat-
19 eral and multilateral development partners to
20 maximize the gains and impact of activities car-
21 ried out under subsection (b)(1).

22 “(d) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.—The Direc-
23 tor of Refugee Educational Assistance shall seek, to the
24 extent practicable, to use any funding appropriated for the
25 purpose of carrying out the duties, goals, and functions

1 described in this section to leverage equal or greater
2 sources of private sector funding for such purposes, and
3 shall undertake and prioritize efforts to identify such
4 sources of private sector funding.

5 “(e) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘edu-
6 cation’ means primary and secondary academic training.

7 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
8 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-
9 priated \$970,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 and such sums
10 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2019 through
11 2028.”.

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