

April 21, 2008

Dear Representative/Senator;

Re: H.R. 2092/S. 1259, The 'Education for All' Act

We, the undersigned organizations, are committed to promoting stability and sustainable development in the world's poorest countries. We write to ask you to support the bi-partisan 'Education for All' Act in the U.S. Congress. More than 72 million children around the world lack access to basic education, putting many at risk of infectious disease and being coerced into labor, trafficking and military service. Education can protect these children from coercion and is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Basic education provides children with literacy, numeracy, critical thinking skills and life skills. Education is also essential to the empowerment of women and girls. Basic education is transformational, lifting nations out of poverty and fueling sustained economic development. In fact, no country has achieved sustained economic growth without reaching near universal primary education. Many countries have demonstrated that targeted development aid works. Between 1999 and 2005, enrollments in primary school in sub-Saharan Africa increased by 29 million children, thanks in part to savings from debt relief which enabled many governments to eliminate schools fees. This legislation will enable tens of millions more children to be enrolled in school, as well as dramatically improve retention rates and quality of education.

The Education for All Act will provide vital bilateral US support to governments that have demonstrated their commitment to achieve the ambitious goal of universal basic education through rigorous, technically-vetted, accountable and measurable national education and economic plans. These governments fund as much as 70 percent of their education plan domestically and need donor assistance to fill the funding gap. This Act would also channel resources to fragile countries, and those emerging from armed conflict through non-governmental channels. Investments in these education systems are essential to the reconstruction, future stability and recovery of post-conflict countries.

The Education for All Act is a valuable investment in US national security and a demonstration of American values and commitment to global development, peace and stability. We look forward to your co-sponsorship of this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely;



Basic Education Coalition



ONE

Signing organizations listed in alphabetical order:



Academy for Educational Development (AED)



Africare



American Baptist Churches USA



American Federation of Teachers



American Jewish World Service



American Refugee Committee



Americans for Informed Democracy (AID)



AMERICAN INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH®

American Institutes for Research (AIR)



A SELF-HELP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ASAP Africa



Better World Campaign



CARE



Christian Children's Fund

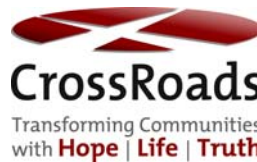


Christian Reformed World Relief Committee



CREATIVE ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL

Creative Associates International



CrossRoads International



DevTech



Education Africa USA



Education Development Center (EDC)



Evangelical Lutheran Church of America



Food for the Hungry



Global AIDS Alliance



Global Campaign for Education



Global Healing



Global Kids, Inc.



International Rescue Committee



International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)



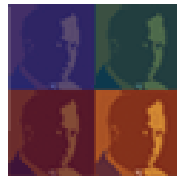
International Youth Foundation



Islamic Relief



Jubilee USA



Leon H. Sullivan Foundation



Mothers Acting Up



National Education Association



National Peace Corps Association



Opportunity International



Plan USA



Presbyterian Church (USA), Washington Office



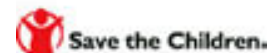
Relief International



RESULTS



RTI International



Save the Children



SIL International



Sojourners



Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations



United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society



US Coalition for Child Survival



US Fund for UNICEF



Winrock International



World Concern



World Education



World Hope International



Women Thrive Worldwide



World Learning



World Vision



Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children



Worldfund