

115TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

S. 1580

AN ACT

- To enhance the transparency, improve the coordination, and intensify the impact of assistance to support access to primary and secondary education for displaced children and persons, including women and girls, and for other purposes.
- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

- 2 This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Girls' Ac-
- 3 cess to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act".

4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

- 5 Congress finds the following:
- 6 (1) As of June 2018, more than 68,000,000
- 7 people have been displaced by disasters and conflicts
- 8 around the world, the highest number recorded since
- 9 the end of World War II, of which more than
- 10 25,000,000 people are refugees.
- 11 (2) More than half of the population of refugees
- are children and, according to the United Nations
- High Commissioner for Refugees, nearly 4,000,000
- school-aged refugee children lack access to primary
- education.
- 16 (3) Education offers socioeconomic opportuni-
- ties, psychological stability, and physical protection
- for displaced people, particularly for women and
- girls, who might otherwise be vulnerable to severe
- forms of trafficking in persons (as such term is de-
- 21 fined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims
- 22 Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9)), child
- 23 marriage, sexual exploitation, or economic disenfran-
- chisement.
- 25 (4) Displaced children face considerable bar-
- riers to accessing educational services and, because

- the duration of such displacement is, on average, 26
 years, such children may spend the entirety of their
 childhood without access to such services.
- 4 (5) Despite the rising need for educational serv-5 ices, as of 2016, less than two percent of humani-6 tarian aid was directed toward educational services.

7 SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

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- It is the sense of Congress that—
- (1) it is critical to ensure that children, particularly girls, displaced by conflicts overseas are able to access educational services because such access can combat extremism and reduce exploitation and poverty; and
 - (2) the educational needs of vulnerable women and girls should be considered in the design, implementation, and evaluation of related United States foreign assistance policies and programs.

18 SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

- 19 It is the policy of the United States to—
- 20 (1) partner with and encourage other countries, 21 public and private multilateral institutions, and non-22 governmental and civil society organizations, includ-23 ing faith-based organizations and organizations rep-24 resenting parents and children, to support efforts to

1	ensure that displaced children have access to safe
2	primary and secondary education;
3	(2) work with donors to enhance training and
4	capacity-building for the governments of countries
5	hosting significant numbers of displaced people to
6	design, implement, and monitor programs to effec-
7	tively address barriers to such education; and
8	(3) coordinate with the governments of coun-
9	tries hosting significant numbers of displaced people
10	to—
11	(A) promote the inclusion of displaced chil-
12	dren into the educational systems of such coun-
13	tries; and
14	(B) in circumstances in which such inclu-
15	sion is difficult, develop innovative approaches
16	to providing safe primary and secondary edu-
17	cational opportunities, such as encouraging
18	schools to permit children to be educated by ex-
19	tending the hours of schooling or expanding the
20	number of teachers.
21	SEC. 5. UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT EDU-
22	CATIONAL SERVICES FOR DISPLACED CHIL-
23	DREN.
24	(a) In General.—The Secretary of State and the
25	Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-

- 1 national Development are authorized to prioritize and ad-
- 2 vance ongoing efforts to support programs that—
- (1) provide safe primary and secondary education for displaced children;
- 5 (2) build the capacity of institutions in coun-6 tries hosting displaced people to prevent discrimina-7 tion against displaced children, especially displaced 8 girls, who seek access to such education; and
- 9 (3) help increase the access of displaced chil-10 dren, especially displaced girls, to educational, eco-11 nomic, and entrepreneurial opportunities, including 12 through the governmental authorities responsible for 13 educational or youth services in such host countries.
- educational or youth services in such host countries.

 (b) COORDINATION WITH MULTILATERAL ORGANI
 ZATIONS.—The Secretary and the Administrator are authorized to coordinate with the World Bank, appropriate
 agencies of the United Nations, and other relevant multilateral organizations to work with governments in other
 countries to collect relevant data, disaggregated by age
 and gender, on the ability of displaced people to access
 education and participate in economic activity, in order
 to improve the targeting, monitoring, and evaluation of related assistance efforts.
- (c) COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR AND
 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary and the

- 1 Administrator are authorized to work with private sector
- 2 and civil society organizations to promote safe primary
- 3 and secondary education for displaced children.
- 4 SEC. 6. REPORT.
- 5 The Secretary and the Administrator shall include in
- 6 the report required under section 7 of the READ Act (di-
- 7 vision A of Public Law 115–56; 22 U.S.C. 2151c note)
- 8 a description of any primary or secondary educational
- 9 services supported by programs for natural or manmade
- 10 disaster relief or response that specifically address the
- 11 needs of displaced girls.

Passed the Senate December 12, 2018.

Attest:

Secretary.

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