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Calendar No. _____

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 1580**

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 19, 2017

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

_____ (legislative day, _____), _____

Reported by Mr. CORKER, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Girls’ Ac-
5 cess to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) At the start of 2017, more than 65,000,000
9 people have been displaced by disasters and conflicts
10 around the world, the highest number recorded since
11 the end of World War II, of which more than
12 21,000,000 people are refugees.

13 (2) More than half of the population of dis-
14 placed people are children and, according to the
15 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,
16 nearly 4,000,000 school-aged displaced children lack
17 access to primary education.

18 (3) Education offers socioeconomic opportuni-
19 ties, psychological stability, and physical protection
20 for displaced people, particularly for women and
21 girls, who might otherwise be vulnerable to severe
22 forms of trafficking in persons (as such term is de-
23 fined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims
24 Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9))), child
25 marriage, sexual exploitation, or economic disenfran-

1 chisement, and contributes to long-term recovery
2 and economic opportunities for displaced people and
3 for the communities hosting them.

4 (4) Displaced children face considerable bar-
5 riers to accessing educational services and, because
6 the duration of such displacement is, on average, 20
7 years, such children may spend the entirety of their
8 childhood without access to such services.

9 (5) Despite the rising need for such services,
10 less than two percent of global emergency aid was
11 directed toward educational services in 2016.

12 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of Congress that—

14 (1) it is critical to ensure that children, particu-
15 larly girls, displaced by conflicts overseas are able to
16 access educational services because such access can
17 combat extremism and reduce exploitation and pov-
18 erty; and

19 (2) the educational needs of vulnerable women
20 and girls should be considered in the design, imple-
21 mentation, and evaluation of related United States
22 foreign assistance policies and programs.

23 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

24 It is the policy of the United States to—

1 (1) partner with and encourage other countries;
2 public and private multilateral institutions, and non-
3 governmental and civil society organizations, includ-
4 ing faith-based organizations and organizations rep-
5 resenting parents and children, to support efforts to
6 ensure that displaced children have access to safe
7 primary and secondary education;

8 (2) work with donors to enhance training and
9 capacity building for the governments of countries
10 hosting significant numbers of displaced people to
11 design, implement, and monitor programs to effec-
12 tively address barriers to such education;

13 (3) incorporate into the design and implementa-
14 tion of such programs measures to evaluate the im-
15 pact of the programs on girls, with respect to the re-
16 duction of child marriage, gender-based violence, and
17 severe forms of trafficking in persons (as such term
18 is defined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Vie-
19 tims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9)));
20 and

21 (4) coordinate with the governments of coun-
22 tries hosting significant numbers of displaced people
23 to—

1 (A) promote the inclusion of displaced chil-
2 dren into the educational systems of such coun-
3 tries; and

4 (B) develop innovative approaches to pro-
5 viding safe primary and secondary educational
6 opportunities in circumstances in which such in-
7 clusion is not possible or appropriate, such as
8 schools that permit more children to be edu-
9 cated by extending the hours of schooling and
10 expanding the number of teachers.

11 **SEC. 5. UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT EDU-**
12 **CATIONAL SERVICES FOR DISPLACED CHIL-**
13 **DREN.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the
15 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
16 national Development are authorized to prioritize and ad-
17 vance ongoing efforts to support programs that—

18 (1) provide safe primary and secondary edu-
19 cation for displaced children;

20 (2) build the capacity of institutions in coun-
21 tries hosting displaced people to prevent discrimina-
22 tion against displaced children, especially displaced
23 girls, who seek access to such education; and

24 (3) help increase the access of displaced chil-
25 dren, especially displaced girls, to educational, eco-

1 nomic, and entrepreneurial opportunities, including
2 through the governmental authorities responsible for
3 educational or youth services in such host countries.

4 (b) **COORDINATION WITH MULTILATERAL ORGANI-**
5 **ZATIONS.**—The Secretary and the Administrator are au-
6 thorized to coordinate with the World Bank, appropriate
7 agencies of the United Nations, and other relevant multi-
8 lateral organizations to work with governments in other
9 countries to collect relevant data, disaggregated by age
10 and gender, on the ability of displaced people to access
11 education and participate in economic activity, in order
12 to improve the targeting, monitoring, and evaluation of re-
13 lated assistance efforts.

14 (c) **COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR AND**
15 **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS.**—The Secretary and the
16 Administrator are authorized to work with private sector
17 and civil society organizations to promote safe primary
18 and secondary education for displaced children.

19 **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

20 During the five-year period beginning on the date of
21 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Adminis-
22 trator shall include in any report or evaluation submitted
23 to Congress relating to a foreign assistance program for
24 natural or manmade disaster relief or response the fol-

1 lowing information (to the extent practicable and appro-
2 priate):

3 (1) A breakdown of the beneficiaries of such
4 program by location, age, gender, marital status,
5 and school enrollment status.

6 (2) A description of how such program benefits
7 displaced people.

8 (3) A description of any primary or secondary
9 educational services supported by such program that
10 specifically address the needs of displaced girls.

11 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

12 *This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Girls' Access*
13 *to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act".*

14 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

15 *Congress finds the following:*

16 (1) *As of June 2018, more than 68,000,000 peo-*
17 *ple have been displaced by disasters and conflicts*
18 *around the world, the highest number recorded since*
19 *the end of World War II, of which more than*
20 *25,000,000 people are refugees.*

21 (2) *More than half of the population of refugees*
22 *are children and, according to the United Nations*
23 *High Commissioner for Refugees, nearly 4,000,000*
24 *school-aged refugee children lack access to primary*
25 *education.*

1 (3) *Education offers socioeconomic opportunities,*
2 *psychological stability, and physical protection for*
3 *displaced people, particularly for women and girls,*
4 *who might otherwise be vulnerable to severe forms of*
5 *trafficking in persons (as such term is defined in sec-*
6 *tion 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act*
7 *of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9)), child marriage, sexual*
8 *exploitation, or economic disenfranchisement.*

9 (4) *Displaced children face considerable barriers*
10 *to accessing educational services and, because the du-*
11 *ration of such displacement is, on average, 26 years,*
12 *such children may spend the entirety of their child-*
13 *hood without access to such services.*

14 (5) *Despite the rising need for educational serv-*
15 *ices, as of 2016, less than two percent of humani-*
16 *tarian aid was directed toward educational services.*

17 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

18 *It is the sense of Congress that—*

19 (1) *it is critical to ensure that children, particu-*
20 *larly girls, displaced by conflicts overseas are able to*
21 *access educational services because such access can*
22 *combat extremism and reduce exploitation and pov-*
23 *erty; and*

24 (2) *the educational needs of vulnerable women*
25 *and girls should be considered in the design, imple-*

1 *mentation, and evaluation of related United States*
2 *foreign assistance policies and programs.*

3 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

4 *It is the policy of the United States to—*

5 (1) *partner with and encourage other countries,*
6 *public and private multilateral institutions, and non-*
7 *governmental and civil society organizations, includ-*
8 *ing faith-based organizations and organizations rep-*
9 *resenting parents and children, to support efforts to*
10 *ensure that displaced children have access to safe pri-*
11 *mary and secondary education;*

12 (2) *work with donors to enhance training and*
13 *capacity-building for the governments of countries*
14 *hosting significant numbers of displaced people to de-*
15 *sign, implement, and monitor programs to effectively*
16 *address barriers to such education; and*

17 (3) *coordinate with the governments of countries*
18 *hosting significant numbers of displaced people to—*

19 (A) *promote the inclusion of displaced chil-*
20 *dren into the educational systems of such coun-*
21 *tries; and*

22 (B) *in circumstances in which such inclu-*
23 *sion is difficult, develop innovative approaches*
24 *to providing safe primary and secondary edu-*
25 *cational opportunities, such as encouraging*

1 *schools to permit children to be educated by ex-*
2 *tending the hours of schooling or expanding the*
3 *number of teachers.*

4 **SEC. 5. UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT EDU-**
5 **CATIONAL SERVICES FOR DISPLACED CHIL-**
6 **DREN.**

7 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the Ad-*
8 *ministrator of the United States Agency for International*
9 *Development are authorized to prioritize and advance ongo-*
10 *ing efforts to support programs that—*

11 *(1) provide safe primary and secondary edu-*
12 *cation for displaced children;*

13 *(2) build the capacity of institutions in countries*
14 *hosting displaced people to prevent discrimination*
15 *against displaced children, especially displaced girls,*
16 *who seek access to such education; and*

17 *(3) help increase the access of displaced children,*
18 *especially displaced girls, to educational, economic,*
19 *and entrepreneurial opportunities, including through*
20 *the governmental authorities responsible for edu-*
21 *cational or youth services in such host countries.*

22 *(b) COORDINATION WITH MULTILATERAL ORGANIZA-*
23 *TIONS.—The Secretary and the Administrator are author-*
24 *ized to coordinate with the World Bank, appropriate agen-*
25 *cies of the United Nations, and other relevant multilateral*

1 *organizations to work with governments in other countries*
2 *to collect relevant data, disaggregated by age and gender,*
3 *on the ability of displaced people to access education and*
4 *participate in economic activity, in order to improve the*
5 *targeting, monitoring, and evaluation of related assistance*
6 *efforts.*

7 (c) *COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL*
8 *SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary and the Admin-*
9 *istrator are authorized to work with private sector and civil*
10 *society organizations to promote safe primary and sec-*
11 *ondary education for displaced children.*

12 **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

13 *The Secretary and the Administrator shall include in*
14 *the report required under section 7 of the READ Act (divi-*
15 *sion A of Public Law 115–56; 22 U.S.C. 2151c note) a de-*
16 *scription of any primary or secondary educational services*
17 *supported by programs for natural or manmade disaster*
18 *relief or response that specifically address the needs of dis-*
19 *placed girls.*