

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 2d Sess.**

**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.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended to be proposed by Mr. RUBIO

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-  
2 lowing:

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) As of June 2018, more than 68,000,000  
9 people have been displaced by disasters and conflicts  
10 around the world, the highest number recorded since

1 the end of World War II, of which more than  
2 25,000,000 people are refugees.

3 (2) More than half of the population of refugees  
4 are children and, according to the United Nations  
5 High Commissioner for Refugees, nearly 4,000,000  
6 school-aged refugee children lack access to primary  
7 education.

8 (3) Education offers socioeconomic opportuni-  
9 ties, psychological stability, and physical protection  
10 for displaced people, particularly for women and  
11 girls, who might otherwise be vulnerable to severe  
12 forms of trafficking in persons (as such term is de-  
13 fined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims  
14 Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9)), child  
15 marriage, sexual exploitation, or economic disenfran-  
16 chisement.

17 (4) Displaced children face considerable bar-  
18 riers to accessing educational services and, because  
19 the duration of such displacement is, on average, 26  
20 years, such children may spend the entirety of their  
21 childhood without access to such services.

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

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

2 It is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) it is critical to ensure that children, particu-  
4 larly girls, displaced by conflicts overseas are able to  
5 access educational services because such access can  
6 combat extremism and reduce exploitation and pov-  
7 erty; and

8 (2) the educational needs of vulnerable women  
9 and girls should be considered in the design, imple-  
10 mentation, and evaluation of related United States  
11 foreign assistance policies and programs.

12 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

13 It is the policy of the United States to—

14 (1) partner with and encourage other countries,  
15 public and private multilateral institutions, and non-  
16 governmental and civil society organizations, includ-  
17 ing faith-based organizations and organizations rep-  
18 resenting parents and children, to support efforts to  
19 ensure that displaced children have access to safe  
20 primary and secondary education;

21 (2) work with donors to enhance training and  
22 capacity-building for the governments of countries  
23 hosting significant numbers of displaced people to  
24 design, implement, and monitor programs to effec-  
25 tively address barriers to such education; and

1           (3) coordinate with the governments of coun-  
2 tries hosting significant numbers of displaced people  
3 to—

4           (A) promote the inclusion of displaced chil-  
5 dren into the educational systems of such coun-  
6 tries; and

7           (B) in circumstances in which such inclu-  
8 sion is difficult, develop innovative approaches  
9 to providing safe primary and secondary edu-  
10 cational opportunities, such as encouraging  
11 schools to permit children to be educated by ex-  
12 tending the hours of schooling or expanding the  
13 number of teachers.

14 **SEC. 5. UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT EDU-**  
15 **CATIONAL SERVICES FOR DISPLACED CHIL-**  
16 **DREN.**

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

21           (1) provide safe primary and secondary edu-  
22 cation for displaced children;

23           (2) build the capacity of institutions in coun-  
24 tries hosting displaced people to prevent discrimina-

1       tion against displaced children, especially displaced  
2       girls, who seek access to such education; and

3               (3) help increase the access of displaced chil-  
4       dren, especially displaced girls, to educational, eco-  
5       nomic, and entrepreneurial opportunities, including  
6       through the governmental authorities responsible for  
7       educational or youth services in such host countries.

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

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

23      **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

24      The Secretary and the Administrator shall include in  
25      the report required under section 7 of the READ Act (di-

1 vision A of Public Law 115–56; 22 U.S.C. 2151e note)  
2 a description of any primary or secondary educational  
3 services supported by programs for natural or manmade  
4 disaster relief or response that specifically address the  
5 needs of displaced girls.