

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 4134
OFFERED BY MS. HOULAHAN OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Keeping Girls in School Act”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
5 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Sense of Congress.
- Sec. 4. Secondary education for adolescent girls.
- Sec. 5. Global strategy requirement.
- Sec. 6. Transparency and reporting to Congress.

6 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

7 In this Act:

8 (1) The term “appropriate congressional com-
9 mittees” means—

10 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
11 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
12 of Representatives; and

13 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
14 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
15 Senate.

1 (2) The term “gender parity in secondary edu-
2 cation” means that girls and boys have equal access
3 to quality secondary education, in accordance with
4 the definition of “gender parity in basic education”
5 in section 2 of the Reinforcing Education Account-
6 ability in Development Act (22 U.S.C. 2151c note).

7 (3) The term “USAID” means the United
8 States Agency for International Development.

9 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

10 It is the sense of Congress that—

11 (1) every child, regardless of gender or place of
12 birth, deserves an equal opportunity to access qual-
13 ity education;

14 (2) education is a key investment in the future,
15 well-being, and prosperity of girls, as well as the sta-
16 bility and productivity of their communities;

17 (3) the United States has been a global leader
18 in efforts to expand and improve access to quality
19 basic education for all, particularly marginalized and
20 vulnerable populations, including women and girls;

21 (4) gains with respect to girls’ secondary edu-
22 cation and empowerment have been proven to cor-
23 relate strongly with efforts to advance women’s
24 rights and gender equality, a stated priority of

1 United States foreign policy and national security;
2 and

3 (5) achieving equal access to and quality of
4 educational opportunity for girls contributes signifi-
5 cantly to economic growth and development, thereby
6 lowering the risk for violence and instability.

7 **SEC. 4. SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS.**

8 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Administrator of the United
9 States Agency for International Development shall seek to
10 enter into agreements to support adolescent girls' access
11 to quality secondary education, particularly in countries
12 where adolescent girls are significantly more likely to drop
13 out of school than boys. Activities under such agreements
14 shall—

15 (1) be informed by a context-specific, evidence-
16 based analysis of the challenges that girls face in
17 successfully transitioning to, remaining enrolled in,
18 and completing secondary school;

19 (2) improve safe, inclusive, and quality edu-
20 cational opportunities for girls and advance girls'
21 empowerment so that girls can successfully transi-
22 tion to, remain enrolled in, and complete secondary
23 school, achieve positive life and learning outcomes,
24 and make healthy transitions into adulthood; and

1 (3) seek to use United States Government
2 strategies and frameworks relevant to international
3 basic education, women’s and girls’ empowerment,
4 and gender equality to integrate multi-sectoral, evi-
5 denced-based approaches to adolescent girls’ edu-
6 cation and well-being.

7 (b) ACCEPTANCE OF SOLICITATIONS FOR AWARDS.—
8 The Administrator of the USAID shall seek to accept so-
9 licitations for awards, pursuant to the authority in sub-
10 section (a), to conduct activities carried out agreements
11 pursuant to subsection (a) beginning not later than 180
12 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

13 (c) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—The Adminis-
14 trator of the USAID shall seek to ensure that activities
15 carried out under agreements pursuant to subsection
16 (a)—

17 (1) employ rigorous monitoring and evaluation
18 methodologies to ensure that such activities demon-
19 strably improve adolescent girls’ access to secondary
20 education, close the gap in gender parity for sec-
21 ondary education, and improve the quality of girls’
22 education;

23 (2) disaggregate data collected and reported by
24 age, gender, marital and motherhood status, dis-

1 ability, and geographic location, to the extent prac-
2 ticable and appropriate; and

3 (3) use, to the extent possible, indicators and
4 methodologies identified by the Interagency Working
5 Group for the Strategy on International Basic Edu-
6 cation.

7 (d) COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
9 United States Agency for International Develop-
10 ment, in coordination with the USAID Coordinator
11 for International Basic Education Assistance, the
12 USAID Youth Coordinator, and the most senior
13 USAID and Department of State officials on ad-
14 vancing women’s rights and gender equality, shall be
15 responsible for the oversight and coordination of all
16 activities of the United States Government carried
17 out under this section, as appropriate.

18 (2) DEVELOPMENT OF AGREEMENTS.—In the
19 development of agreements described in subsection
20 (a), the Administrator of the USAID, in coordina-
21 tion with the other officials described in paragraph
22 (1), shall consult with representatives across Federal
23 departments and agencies who are implementing the
24 global strategy described in section 5.

1 (3) COORDINATION WITH OTHER STRATE-
2 GIES.—Activities carried out under this section shall
3 also be carried out in coordination with—

4 (A) the United States global strategy to
5 empower adolescent girls described in section 5;
6 and

7 (B) the United States Government Strat-
8 egy on International Basic Education, including
9 its objective to expand access to quality basic
10 education for all, particularly marginalized and
11 vulnerable populations.

12 **SEC. 5. GLOBAL STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of
15 the USAID, in coordination with the USAID Coordinator
16 for International Basic Education Assistance, the USAID
17 Youth Coordinator, and the most senior USAID and De-
18 partment of State officials on advancing women’s rights
19 and gender equality, shall—

20 (1) review and update a United States global
21 strategy to empower adolescent girls, which includes
22 a focus on girls’ access to quality, inclusive sec-
23 ondary education and subsequent agency implemen-
24 tation plans; and

1 (2) submit the updated strategy to the appro-
2 priate congressional committees.

3 (b) 5-YEAR UPDATE OF STRATEGY.—Not later than
4 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
5 Administrator of the USAID, in coordination with the
6 other officials described in subsection (a), shall submit to
7 the appropriate congressional committees a further update
8 and revision of the strategy and implementation plans de-
9 scribed in such subsection.

10 (c) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In reviewing and
11 updating the strategy and implementation plans described
12 in subsections (a), the Administrator of the United States
13 Agency for International Development, in coordination
14 with the other officials described in such subsection, shall
15 consult with and provide meaningful opportunity for re-
16 view to—

17 (1) the heads of relevant Federal departments
18 and agencies (or their designees);

19 (2) the appropriate congressional committees;
20 and

21 (3) representatives of United States and inter-
22 national civil society and multilateral organizations
23 with demonstrated experience and expertise in em-
24 powering adolescent girls and promoting women’s
25 empowerment and gender equality, including local

1 civil society organizations, faith-based organizations,
2 and, where possible, program participants.

3 **SEC. 6. TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING TO CONGRESS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
5 submission of the first strategy required by section 5, and
6 biennially thereafter for 4 years, the Administrator of the
7 USAID, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall
8 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
9 port describing—

10 (1) the activities initiated under agreements
11 under the authorities provided by this Act; and

12 (2) the manner and extent to which such activi-
13 ties are monitored and evaluated, in accordance with
14 section 4(d).

15 (b) AVAILABILITY.—The reports required by sub-
16 section (a) shall be made available on a text-based, search-
17 able, and publicly available website of the USAID.

