H. R.  

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance to expand, improve, support, and promote primary and secondary education for displaced children, including girls, from areas designated by the Department of State as areas of conflict.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PAYNE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance to expand, improve, support, and promote primary and secondary education for displaced children, including girls, from areas designated by the Department of State as areas of conflict.

1  Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

3  SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4  This Act may be cited as the “Prioritizing Education in Conflict Zones Act of 2017”.
SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR DISPLACED CHILDREN FROM AREAS OF CONFLICT.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended by inserting after section 105 (22 U.S.C. 2151c) the following new section:

"SEC. 105A. ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR DISPLACED CHILDREN FROM AREAS OF CONFLICT.

"(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of State and Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, acting through the Director of Refugee Educational Assistance designated pursuant to subsection (c), is authorized to provide long-term assistance to expand, improve, support, and promote primary and secondary education for displaced children from areas of conflict.

"(b) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Assistance provided under subsection (a) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, be used to—

"(1) build the capacity for private sector and civil society organizations with a stated purpose of educating children, including girls, in the areas of—

"(A) development and strengthening of primary and secondary curricula;
“(B) coordination with educational facilities of host countries; and

“(C) technical capacities and expertise, including strategies for cost-effective procurement of science and technology equipment;

“(2) establish, expand, and promote linkages and partnerships between host countries’ educational facilities, private sector and civil organizations, and United States colleges and universities education programs; and

“(3) assist with efforts to educate women and girls.

“(e) DIRECTOR OF REFUGEE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall designate a Director of Refugee Educational Assistance, who shall report directly to the Administrator, and who shall carry out the responsibilities described in paragraph (2).

“(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities referred to in paragraph (1) include—

“(A) ongoing consultations with and the provision of technical advice to host country
governments, particularly ministries of education, regional organizations, and public tertiary and related educational institutions, and education and educators' organizations with respect to carrying out the activities described in subsection (b);

"(B) coordination and administration of long-term assistance authorized under subsection (a) in support of the activities described in subsection (b); and

"(C) coordinating with other bureaus within the United States Agency for International Development, with other relevant United States Government agencies, with the United States and international private sectors, with the primary and secondary education community and relevant research organizations in the United States and host countries, and with other bilateral and multilateral development partners to maximize the gains and impact of activities carried out under subsection (b)(1).

"(d) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.—The Director of Refugee Educational Assistance shall seek, to the extent practicable, to use any funding appropriated for the purpose of carrying out the duties, goals, and functions
described in this section to leverage equal or greater
sources of private sector funding for such purposes, and
shall undertake and prioritize efforts to identify such
sources of private sector funding.
"(e) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘edu-
cation’ means primary and secondary academic training.

"(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-
piated $970,000,000 for fiscal year 2018 and such sums
as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2019 through
2028.”.