

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3583

To expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women under the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 21, 2013

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Ms. GRANGER, and Mrs. LOWEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women under the Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program.

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 “Malala Yousafzai
5 Scholarship Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
8 ings:

1 (1) On October 9, 2012, 15-year-old Malala
2 Yousafzai was shot in the head by Taliban gunmen
3 in Pakistan on her way home from school.

4 (2) When Malala was 11 years old, she bravely
5 stood up to the Taliban and wrote a secret blog doc-
6 umenting their crackdown on women’s rights and
7 education in 2009.

8 (3) Malala’s advocacy for women’s education
9 made her a target of the Taliban.

10 (4) The Taliban called Malala’s efforts to high-
11 light the need for women’s education an “obscenity”.

12 (5) On July 12, 2013, Malala celebrated her
13 16th birthday by delivering a speech before the
14 United Nations General Assembly in which she said,
15 “So let us wage a glorious struggle against illiteracy,
16 poverty, and terrorism. Let us pick up our books
17 and our pens. They are the most powerful weapons.
18 One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can
19 change the world. Education is the only solution.”.

20 (6) According to the United Nation’s 2012
21 Education for All Global Monitoring Report, “Paki-
22 stan has the second largest number of children out
23 of school [in the world]” and “nearly half of rural
24 females have never been to school.”.

1 (7) According to a Council on Foreign Rela-
2 tions report titled “What Works in Girls’ Edu-
3 cation”, “A 100-country study by the World Bank
4 shows that increasing the share of women with a
5 secondary education by 1 percent boosts annual per
6 capita income growth by 0.3 percentage points.”.

7 (8) According to the World Bank, “The benefits
8 of women’s education go beyond higher productivity
9 for 50 percent of the population. More educated
10 women also tend to be healthier, participate more in
11 the formal labor market, earn more income, have
12 fewer children, and provide better health care and
13 education to their children, all of which eventually
14 improve the well-being of all individuals and lift
15 households out of poverty. These benefits also trans-
16 mit across generations, as well as to their commu-
17 nities at large.”.

18 (9) According to United Nation’s 2012 Edu-
19 cation For All Global Monitoring Report, “education
20 can make a big difference to women’s earnings. In
21 Pakistan, women with a high level of literacy earned
22 95 percent more than women with no literacy
23 skills.”.

24 (10) In January 2010, Secretary of State Hil-
25 lary Rodham Clinton stated, “We will open the

1 doors of education to all citizens, but especially to
2 girls and women . . . We are doing all of these
3 things because we have seen that when women and
4 girls have the tools to stay healthy and the oppor-
5 tunity to contribute to their families' well-being, they
6 flourish and so do the people around them.”.

7 (11) The United States provides critical foreign
8 assistance to Pakistan’s education sector to improve
9 access to and the quality of basic and higher edu-
10 cation.

11 (12) The Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship
12 Program administered by the United States Agency
13 for International Development awards scholarships
14 to academically talented, financially needy Pakistani
15 students from remote regions of the country to pur-
16 sue bachelor’s or master’s degrees at participating
17 Pakistani universities.

18 (13) Fifty percent of the 974 Merit and Needs-
19 Based Scholarships awarded during fiscal year 2013
20 were awarded to Pakistani women. Historically, only
21 25 percent of such scholarships have been awarded
22 to women.

23 (14) The United Nations declared July 12 as
24 “Malala Day”—a global day of support for and rec-

1 ognition of Malala’s bravery and courage in pro-
2 moting women’s education.

3 (15) On December 10, 2012, the United Na-
4 tions and the Government of Pakistan launched the
5 “Malala Fund for Girls’ Education” to improve
6 girls’ access to education worldwide, with Pakistan
7 donating the first \$10,000,000 to the Fund.

8 (16) More than 1,000,000 people around the
9 world have signed the United Nations Special Envoy
10 for Global Education petition calling on the Govern-
11 ment of Pakistan to enroll every boy and girl in pri-
12 mary school.

13 (17) Pakistani civil society organizations col-
14 lected almost 2,000,000 signatures from Pakistanis
15 on a petition dedicated to Malala’s cause of edu-
16 cation for all.

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

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that—

19 (1) every individual should have the opportunity
20 to pursue an education;

21 (2) every individual, regardless of gender,
22 should have the opportunity to pursue an education
23 without fear of discrimination; and

24 (3) educational exchanges promote institutional
25 linkages between the United States and Pakistan.

1 (b) CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR EDUCATIONAL INITIA-
2 TIVES IN PAKISTAN.—Congress encourages the Depart-
3 ment of State and the United States Agency for Inter-
4 national Development to continue their support for initia-
5 tives led by the Government of Pakistan and Pakistani
6 civil society that promote education in Pakistan, especially
7 education for women.

8 **SEC. 4. MERIT AND NEEDS-BASED SCHOLARSHIP PRO-**
9 **GRAM.**

10 (a) EXPANSION.—Using funding made available
11 under section 6, the Administrator of the United States
12 Agency for International Development (referred to in this
13 Act as the “USAID Administrator”) shall increase the
14 number of scholarships to women under the Merit and
15 Needs-Based Scholarship Program (referred to in this Act
16 as the “Program”) during each of the calendar years 2013
17 through 2015 over the level awarded to women in calendar
18 year 2011.

19 (b) LIMITATIONS.—

20 (1) CRITERIA.—The additional scholarships
21 available under subsection (a) may only be awarded
22 in accordance with other scholarship eligibility cri-
23 teria already established by USAID.

24 (2) ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES.—Additional schol-
25 arships authorized under subsection (a) shall be

1 awarded for a range of disciplines to improve the
2 employability of graduates and to meet the needs of
3 the scholarship recipients.

4 (3) OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS.—The USAID Ad-
5 ministrator shall make every effort to award 50 per-
6 cent of the scholarships available under the Program
7 to Pakistani women.

8 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The USAID Administrator shall
10 designate appropriate USAID officials to brief the appro-
11 priate congressional committees, not later than 1 year
12 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
13 thereafter for the next 3 years, on the implementation of
14 section 4.

15 (b) CONTENTS.—The briefing described in subsection
16 (a) shall include, among other relevant information, for
17 the most recently concluded fiscal year—

18 (1) the total number of scholarships that were
19 awarded through the Program, including a break-
20 down by gender;

21 (2) the disciplines of study chosen by the schol-
22 arship recipients;

23 (3) the percentage of the scholarships that were
24 awarded to students seeking a bachelor's degree or
25 a master's degree, respectively; and

1 (4) the percentage of scholarship recipients that
2 voluntarily dropped out of school or were involun-
3 tarily pushed out of the program for failure to meet
4 program requirements.

5 **SEC. 6. FUNDING.**

6 Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fis-
7 cal year 2014 pursuant to title I of the Enhanced Partner-
8 ship with Pakistan Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 8411 et seq.),
9 \$3,000,000 shall be made available for scholarships au-
10 thorized under section 4(a).

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