

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 120

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 23 (legislative day, JANUARY 3), 2013

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Ms. LANDRIEU) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

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) According to the United Nation’s 2012
13 Education for All Global Monitoring Report, “Paki-
14 stan has the second largest number of children out
15 of school [in the world]” and “nearly half of rural
16 females have never been to school.”.

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

23 (7) According to the World Bank, “The benefits
24 of women’s education go beyond higher productivity
25 for 50 percent of the population. More educated

1 women also tend to be healthier, participate more in
2 the formal labor market, earn more income, have
3 fewer children, and provide better health care and
4 education to their children, all of which eventually
5 improve the well-being of all individuals and lift
6 households out of poverty. These benefits also trans-
7 mit across generations, as well as to their commu-
8 nities at large.”.

9 (8) According to United Nation’s 2012 Edu-
10 cation For All Global Monitoring Report, “education
11 can make a big difference to women’s earnings. In
12 Pakistan, women with a high level of literacy earned
13 95 percent more than women with no literacy
14 skills.”.

15 (9) In January 2010, Secretary of State Hillary
16 Rodham Clinton stated, “We will open the doors of
17 education to all citizens, but especially to girls and
18 women . . . We are doing all of these things because
19 we have seen that when women and girls have the
20 tools to stay healthy and the opportunity to con-
21 tribute to their families’ well-being, they flourish and
22 so do the people around them.”.

23 (10) The United States provides critical foreign
24 assistance to Pakistan’s education sector to improve

1 access to and the quality of basic and higher edu-
2 cation.

3 (11) The Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship
4 Program administered by the United States Agency
5 for International Development awards scholarships
6 to academically talented, financially needy Pakistani
7 students from remote regions of the country to pur-
8 sue bachelor's or master's degrees at participating
9 Pakistani universities.

10 (12) Twenty-five percent of the 1,807 Merit
11 and Needs-Based Scholarships awarded to date have
12 been for women, with the goal of awarding 50 per-
13 cent of the scholarships for fall 2013 matriculation
14 to women.

15 (13) The United Nations declared November 10
16 as “Malala Day”—a global day of support for and
17 recognition of Malala’s bravery and courage in pro-
18 moting women’s education.

19 (14) On December 10, 2012, the United Na-
20 tions and the Government of Pakistan launched the
21 “Malala Fund for Girls’ Education” to improve
22 girls’ access to education worldwide, with Pakistan
23 donating the first \$10,000,000 to the Fund.

24 (15) The Government of Pakistan has stated
25 that it plans to open 16 schools for poor children in

1 areas affected by conflict or natural disasters and
2 name them “Malala Schools” after Malala
3 Yousafzai.

4 (16) The Government of Pakistan, the United
5 Nations, the World Bank, and other international
6 organizations have set an April 2013 deadline to put
7 forward a plan to provide education for all of Paki-
8 stan’s school-aged children by the end of 2015.

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

14 (18) Pakistani civil society organizations col-
15 lected an additional 1,200,000 signatures from Paki-
16 stanis on a petition dedicated to Malala’s cause.

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

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

19 (1) education and freedom from discrimination
20 are fundamental human rights; and

21 (2) educational exchanges increase people-to-
22 people ties and promote institutional linkages be-
23 tween the United States and other countries.

24 (b) CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR EDUCATIONAL INITIA-
25 TIVES IN PAKISTAN.—Congress encourages the Depart-

1 ment of State and the United States Agency for Inter-
2 national Development to continue their support for initia-
3 tives led by the Government of Pakistan and Pakistani
4 civil society that promote education in Pakistan, especially
5 education for women.

6 **SEC. 4. MERIT AND NEEDS-BASED SCHOLARSHIP PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) EXPANSION.—The USAID Administrator shall
9 increase the number of scholarships available under the
10 Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program (referred to
11 in this Act as the “Program”) administered by the United
12 States Agency for International Development (referred to
13 in this Act as “USAID”) during each of the fiscal years
14 2013 through 2016 by 30 percent compared to the num-
15 ber of scholarships awarded during fiscal year 2012.

16 (b) LIMITATIONS.—

17 (1) WOMEN.—The additional scholarships avail-
18 able under subsection (a) may only be awarded to
19 women, in accordance with other scholarship eligi-
20 bility criteria already established by USAID.

21 (2) ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES.—Additional schol-
22 arships added by subsection (a) shall be awarded for
23 a range of disciplines to improve the employability of
24 graduates and to meet the needs of the scholarship
25 recipients.

1 (3) OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS.—The USAID Ad-
2 ministrators shall make every effort to award 50 per-
3 cent of the scholarships available under the Program
4 (excluding the additional scholarships available
5 under subsection (a)) to Pakistani women.

6 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.**

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

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

16 (1) the total number of scholarships that were
17 awarded through the Program;

18 (2) the disciplines of study chosen by the schol-
19 arship recipients;

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

23 (4) the percentage of scholarship recipients that
24 voluntarily dropped out of school or were involun-

1 tarily pushed out of the program for failure to meet
2 program requirements.

3 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) **TRANSFER OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUND-**
5 **ING.**—Of the amounts appropriated for fiscal years 2013
6 and 2014 pursuant to the authorization under title II of
7 the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009
8 (Public Law 111–73), \$400,000 shall be made available
9 in each of the fiscal years 2013 and 2014 for the Program.

10 (b) **FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR**
11 **PAKISTANI WOMEN.**—Of the amounts appropriated for
12 fiscal years 2015 and 2016 for the purpose of providing
13 assistance to Pakistan under the Foreign Assistance Act
14 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), \$400,000 shall be made
15 available in each of the fiscal years 2015 and 2016 for
16 the Program.

17 (c) **AVAILABILITY.**—Amounts made available in sub-
18 sections (a) and (b) shall remain available until expended.

○