



Coalition for Adolescent Girls Policy Working Group Welcomes Keeping Girls in School Act

The Coalition for Adolescent Girls' Policy Working group, representing a diverse subsection of the Coalition's 80 member organizations, welcomes the introduction of the Keeping Girls in School Act, introduced today by Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire. The bill is designed to ensure that the U.S. government's foreign assistance addresses the barriers that keep more than 130 million girls out of school globally.

The Coalition for Adolescent Girls (CAG) recognizes that the issues facing adolescent girls are complex and that education, a human right in and of itself, is one of the most important investments that can be made in girls' lives. During the transition from primary to secondary school, the obstacles facing girls become even more pronounced and complex, and responses to those obstacles must be multifaceted as well. The Keeping Girls in School Act ensures that the U.S. government addresses not only access to education but the specific barriers to education girls face, such as gender inequality that favors boys' education, harmful practices like child marriage, and violence in or on the way to school, through evidence-based investments and coordination between relevant U.S. Government agencies.

The Policy Working Group particularly commends the inclusion of the U.S. Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls. The CAG was consulted in the creation of this Strategy and has previously expressed [our support](#) for the recognition that girls are not only a vulnerable population, but a powerful one, with unique needs that need to be addressed through coordinated efforts across multiple government agencies to achieve a 'whole-of-government for the whole girl' approach in various contexts. This Strategy, while powerful and the first of its kind from any government, depends on support from Capitol Hill and the Administration to be fully implemented. Senator Shaheen's Keeping Girls in School Act requires that the Strategy be implemented, which the CAG Policy Working Group welcomes as a step towards ensuring 130 million girls go to— and stay in —school.

About the Coalition for Adolescent Girls Policy Working Group

The Coalition for Adolescent Girls includes more than 70 US-based organizations committed to working together on research, program implementation, policy and advocacy with and for adolescent girls. The CAG provides a unique platform for organizations to share information, tools, and resources; to find points of intersection and opportunities for collaboration; build technical capacity; and to strategize on best practices. The Policy Working Group is a subset of those 70 organizations who work together on issues facing adolescent girls with policy solutions.

For more information about the Coalition for Adolescent Girls Policy Working Group, please contact Policy Lead and Steering Committee member Rachel Clement at rclement@icrw.org.