

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**  
**TO H.R. 3398**  
**OFFERED BY** MR. CHABOT

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Girls Count Act of  
3 2014”.

**4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5       Congress makes the following findings:

6           (1) According to the United States Census Bu-  
7 reau’s 2013 international figures, 1 person in 12—  
8 or close to 900,000,000 people—is a girl or young  
9 woman age 10 through 24.

10          (2) The data also asserts that young people are  
11 the fastest growing segment of the population in de-  
12 veloping countries.

13          (3) Even though most countries do have birth  
14 registration laws, nearly one-third of all children  
15 under the age of 5 worldwide have never had their  
16 births registered. Moreover, an estimated 45 percent  
17 of children under the age of 5 worldwide (about 290  
18 million children) do not possess a birth certificate.

1           (4) A nationally recognized proof of birth is the  
2           key to determining a child's citizenship, nationality,  
3           place of birth, parentage and age, without which a  
4           passport, drivers license, or national identification  
5           card are impossible to obtain. Those who lack such  
6           documentation are often prevented from officially  
7           participating in and benefitting from the formal eco-  
8           nomic, legal, and political sectors in their countries.

9           (5) The lack of birth registration among girls  
10          worldwide is particularly concerning as it exacer-  
11          bates their disproportionate vulnerability to traf-  
12          ficking, child marriage, and lack of access to health  
13          and education services.

14          (6) A lack of birth registration among women  
15          and girls can also aggravate what in many places  
16          amounts to an already reduced ability to seek em-  
17          ployment, participate in civil society or purchase or  
18          inherit land and other assets.

19          (7) Girls undertake much of the domestic labor  
20          needed for poor families to survive: carrying water,  
21          harvesting crops, tending livestock, caring for young-  
22          er children, and doing chores.

23          (8) Accurate assessments of access to edu-  
24          cation, poverty levels, and overall census activities  
25          are hampered by the lack of official information on

1 women and girls. Without this rudimentary informa-  
2 tion, assessments of foreign assistance and domestic  
3 social welfare programs cannot be accurately  
4 gauged.

5 (9) To ensure that women and girls are fully in-  
6 tegrated into United States foreign assistance poli-  
7 cies and programs, that the specific needs of girls  
8 are, to the maximum extent possible, addressed in  
9 the design, implementation, and evaluation of devel-  
10 opment assistance programs, and that women and  
11 girls have the power to affect the decisions that af-  
12 fect their lives, all girls should be counted and have  
13 access to birth certificates and other official docu-  
14 mentation.

15 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

16 It is the policy of the United States to—

17 (1) encourage countries to uphold the Universal  
18 Declaration of Human Rights and enact laws that  
19 ensure girls and boys of all ages are full participants  
20 in society, including requiring birth certifications  
21 and some type of national identity card to ensure  
22 that all citizens, including girls, are counted;

23 (2) enhance training and capacity-building to  
24 developing countries, local nongovernmental organi-  
25 zations, and other civil society organizations to effec-

1       tively address the needs of birth registries in coun-  
2       tries where girls are undercounted;

3           (3) include organizations representing children  
4       and families in the design, implementation, and  
5       monitoring of programs under this Act; and

6           (4) mainstream into the design, implementa-  
7       tion, and evaluation of policies and programs at all  
8       levels an understanding of the distinctive impact  
9       that such policies and programs may have on girls.

10 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT COUNT-**  
11 **ING OF GIRLS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.**

12       (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary and the Admin-  
13       istrator are authorized to—

14           (1) support programs that will contribute to im-  
15       proved and sustainable Civil Registration and Vital  
16       Statistics Systems (CRVS) with a focus on birth  
17       registration as the first and most important life  
18       event to be registered;

19           (2) promote programs that build the capacity of  
20       developing countries' national and local legal and  
21       policy frameworks to prevent discrimination against  
22       girls;

23           (3) support programs to help increase property  
24       rights, social security, and home ownership, land

1 tenure security, and inheritance rights for women;  
2 and

3 (4) assist key ministries in the governments of  
4 developing countries, including health, interior,  
5 youth, and education ministries, to ensure that girls  
6 from poor households obtain equitable access to so-  
7 cial programs.

8 (b) COORDINATION WITH MULTILATERAL ORGANI-  
9 ZATIONS.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the World  
10 Bank, relevant United Nations agencies and programs,  
11 and other relevant organizations to urge and work with  
12 countries to enact, implement, and enforce laws that spe-  
13 cifically collect data on girls and establish registration and  
14 identification laws to ensure girls are active participants  
15 in the social, economic, legal and political sectors of society  
16 in their countries.

17 (c) COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR AND  
18 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary and the  
19 Administrator should work with United States, inter-  
20 national, and local private sector and civil society organi-  
21 zations to advocate for the registration and documentation  
22 of all girls and boys in developing countries to prevent ex-  
23 ploitation, violence, and other abuses.

1 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

2 The Secretary and the Administrator shall include in  
3 relevant evaluations and reports to Congress the following  
4 information:

5 (1) To the extent practicable, United States  
6 foreign assistance and development assistance bene-  
7 ficiaries by age, gender, marital status, location, and  
8 school enrollment status.

9 (2) A description of how United States foreign  
10 assistance and development assistance benefits girls.

11 (3) Specific information on programs that ad-  
12 dress the particular needs of girls.

13 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
16 trator” means the Administrator of the United  
17 States Agency for International Development.

18 (2) DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.—The term  
19 “development assistance” means—

20 (A) assistance under—

21 (i) chapter 1 of part 1 of the Foreign  
22 Assistance Act of 1961;

23 (ii) the Millennium Challenge Act of  
24 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.);

1 (iii) the United States Leadership  
2 Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Ma-  
3 laria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.);

4 (iv) title V of the International Secu-  
5 rity and Development Cooperation Act of  
6 1980 (22 U.S.C. 290h et seq.; relating to  
7 the African Development Foundation); or

8 (v) section 401 of the Foreign Assist-  
9 ance Act of 1969 (22 U.S.C. 290f; relating  
10 to the Inter-American Foundation);

11 (B) official development assistance under  
12 any provision of law; and

13 (C) reconstruction assistance under any  
14 provision of law.

15 (3) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.—The term “foreign  
16 assistance” means any tangible or intangible item  
17 provided by the United States Government to a for-  
18 eign country or international organization under the  
19 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et  
20 seq.) or any other Act, including any training, serv-  
21 ice, or technical advice, any item of real, personal,  
22 or mixed property, any agricultural commodity, any  
23 gift, loan, sale, credit, guarantee, or export subsidy,  
24 United States dollars, and any currencies of any for-

1        eign country which are owned by the United States  
2        Government.

3                (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
4        the Secretary of State.

5    **SEC. 7. SUNSET.**

6        This Act shall expire on the date that is 5 years after  
7    the date of the enactment of this Act.

