

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health  
and Human Services, Education,  
and Related Agencies  
2358-B Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health  
and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you draft your Fiscal Year 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill, we request that you include \$106.1 million in funding for International Education and Foreign Language Studies. This includes \$95.7 million for Higher Education Act-Title VI and \$10.4 million for Fulbright-Hays programs.

Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs have had a tremendous impact on our nation over the years by developing a strong foundation in international education, research, and foreign language studies, especially in the less-commonly taught languages of U.S. strategic interest.

Multiple GAO reports have cited shortfalls of language and culture skills in the U.S. military and intelligence community, finding that our nation's language deficit could threaten our priorities and missions around the globe. At the same time, growing security challenges in other issue areas such as global health, environment, food production, cybersecurity, and law enforcement increasingly depend on international knowledge and skills. Meanwhile, America's business and their clientele are diversifying and globalizing their operations, requiring language skills and cultural knowledge to compete successfully in global markets.

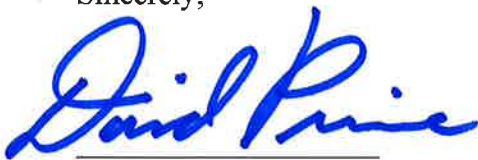
The Commission on Language Learning of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, requested by Congress in 2014, released its final report on February 28, 2017. The data demonstrates that "by several measures, the United States has neglected languages in its educational curricula, its international strategies, and its domestic policies." The Commission also found that the U.S. educational system is not fully prepared to meet the rapidly growing demands for professionals and educators with area, regional, international business and foreign language knowledge. Effective communication is the basis of international cooperation, and a strong national defense depends substantially on the ability of Americans to communicate and compete by knowing the languages and cultures of other countries.

Strong academic programs in critical foreign languages and intensive training in multi-disciplinary regional studies -- including socio-economic, cultural, security, and religious and business aspects, among others -- are vital to our national security and global economic competitiveness. But beyond the intensive curriculum development and related academic

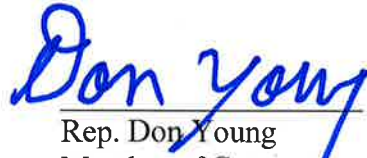
programming resulting from these programs, Title VI resources make possible extensive outreach to K-12 classrooms, strong collaborations between four-year postsecondary institutions and community colleges, and strengthened ties between U. S. postsecondary institutions and international partners.

The various programs funded under this account serve to strengthen the nation's educational infrastructure in areas where the need grows greater by the day. We are thankful for your commitment to these programs and the increased funding provided in the prior fiscal year. We hope to build on this progress and urge \$106.1 million for this critical international and foreign language education infrastructure. This is a small but vitally important investment in our nation's education, national security, and economic competitiveness.

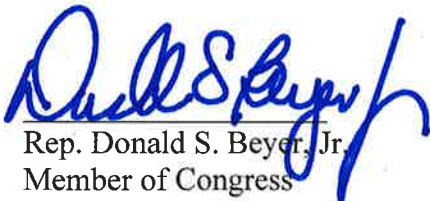
Sincerely,



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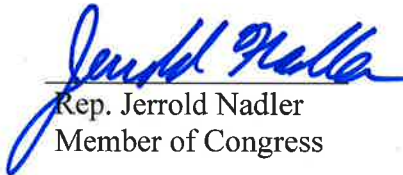
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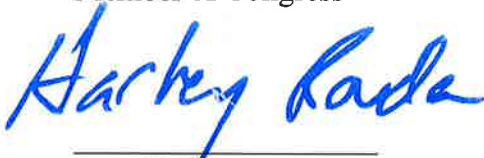
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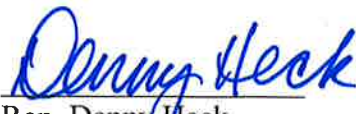
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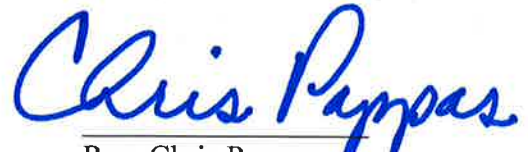
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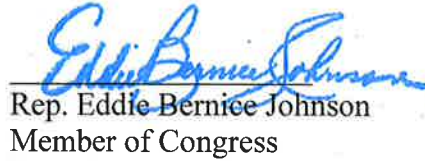
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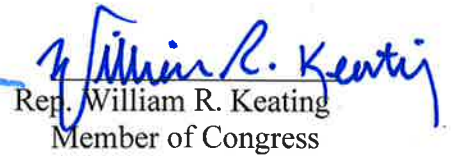
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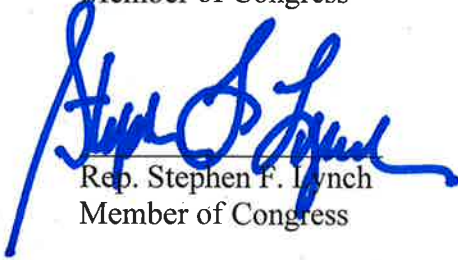
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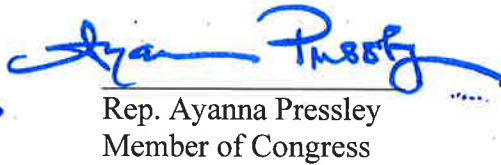
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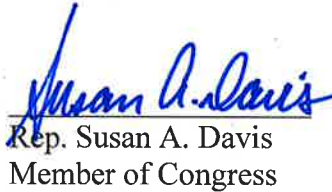
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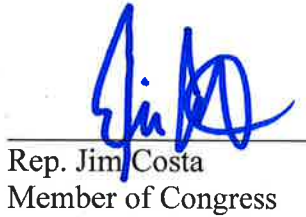
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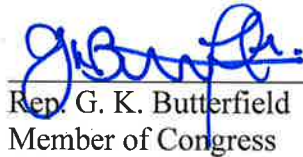
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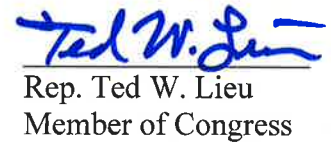
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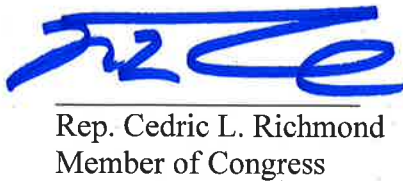
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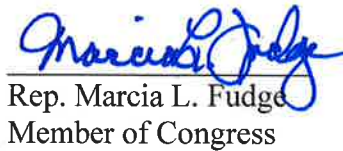
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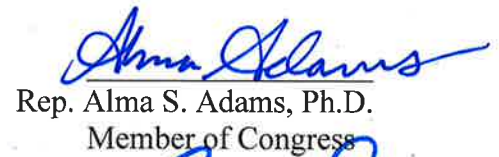
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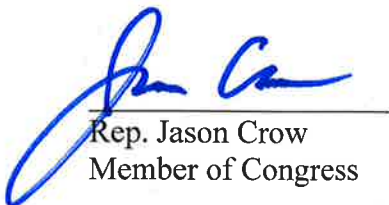
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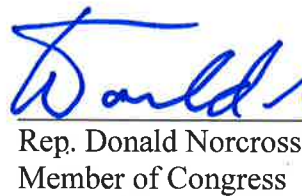
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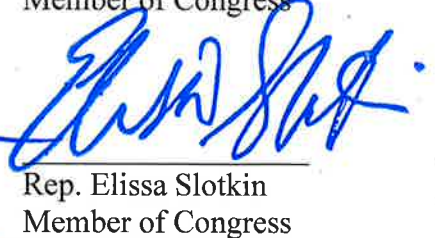
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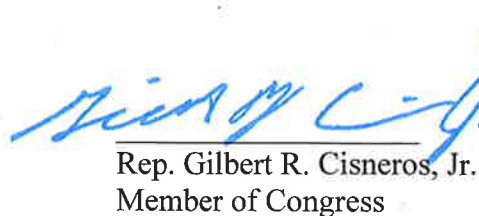
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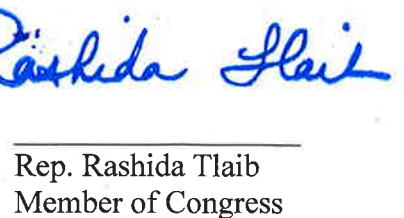
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