

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you draft your Fiscal Year 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill, we request that you include at least \$72.16 million for International Education and Foreign Language Studies for Fiscal Year 2017, \$65.1 million for HEA-Title VI and \$7.06 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.

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.

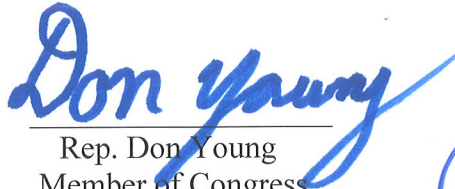
The various programs funded under this account serve to strengthen the nation's educational infrastructure in areas where the need grows greater by the day. In today's global environment, foreign language and cultural knowledge have become necessary 21st century skills for government, business and non-profit employers. At the federal level, severe and continuing shortages of government personnel with the necessary language and cultural skills to meet strategic needs are well documented. Recent indicators also reveal changing workforce demands in the business world. In one recent survey of U.S. corporations, 86 percent of firms indicated a belief that their overall business would increase with more international expertise on their staff, while 70 percent indicated that foreign language skills and an appreciation for cross-cultural differences are among the most important requirements at the entry level today.

Unfortunately, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs have been weakened by recent budget reductions at the very time their importance has grown. Therefore, we strongly urge at least level funding for these programs to preserve this critical international and foreign language education infrastructure. This is a small, but vitally important investment both in education and national security, as well as economic competitiveness.

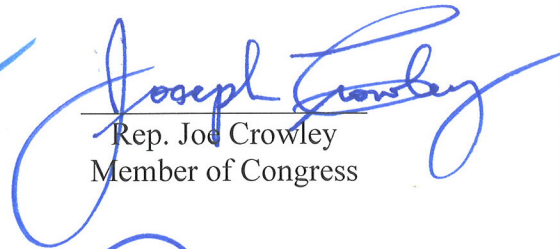
Sincerely,



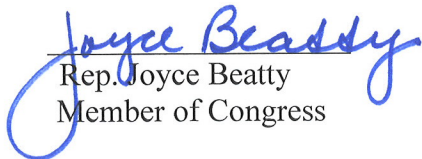
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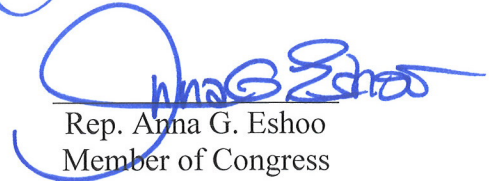
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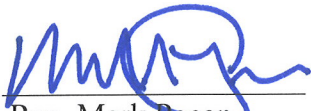
Rep. Joyce Beatty
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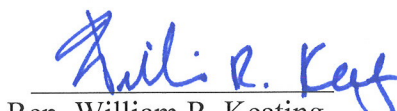
Rep. David Scott
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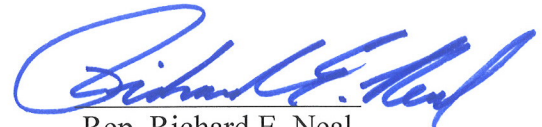
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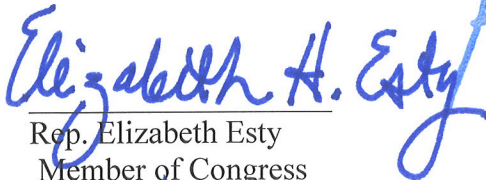
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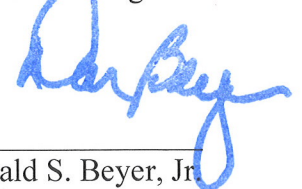
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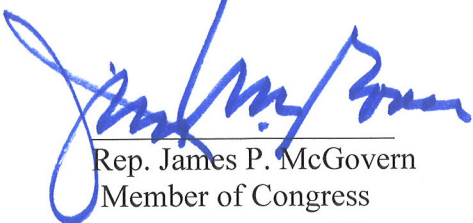
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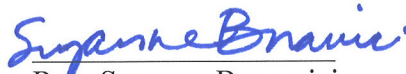
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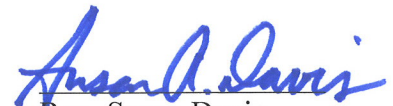
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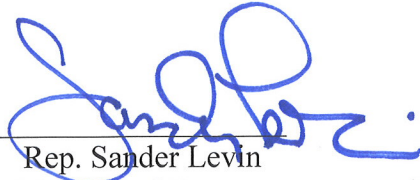
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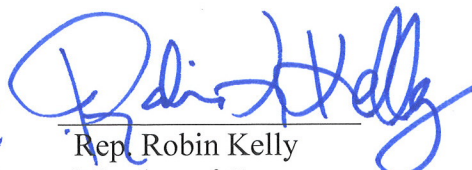
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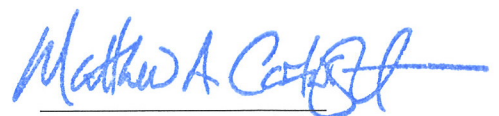
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