

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

March 28, 2019

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 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill, we request that you include \$106 million in funding for International Education and Foreign Language Studies for Fiscal Year 2020. This includes \$95.7 million for HEA-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

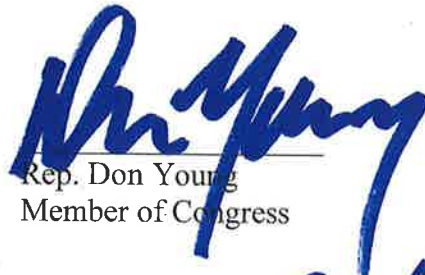
programming resulting from these programs, Title VI resources make possible extensive outreach to K-12 classrooms, strong collaborations between four-year postsecondary institutions and community colleges, and strengthened ties between U. S. postsecondary institutions and international partners.

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. 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 \$106 million for these programs to begin restoring funding to their FY 2010 levels and build on the progress made to 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.

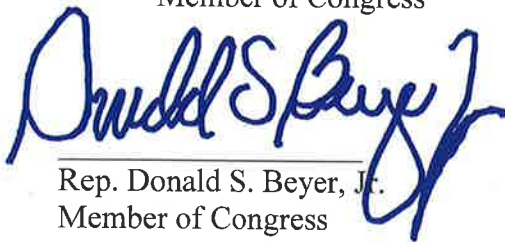
Sincerely,



Rep. David Price  
Member of Congress



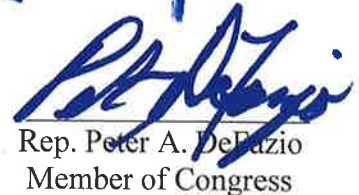
Rep. Don Young  
Member of Congress



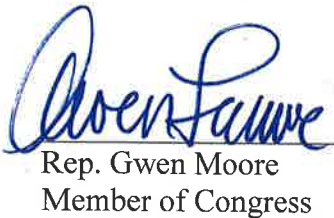
Rep. Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
Member of Congress



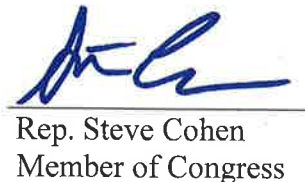
Rep. Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



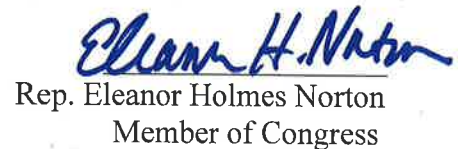
Rep. Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



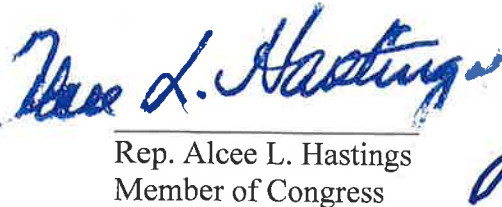
Rep. Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Rep. Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



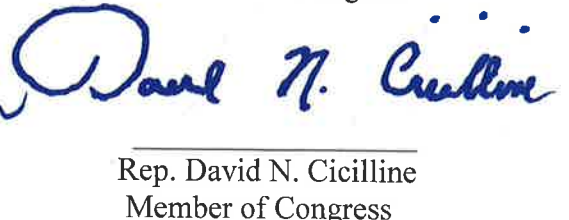
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Rep. Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



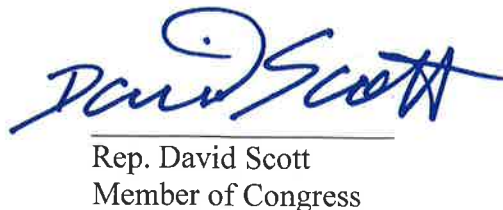
Rep. Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Rep. David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Rep. Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



Rep. David Scott  
Member of Congress



Rep. Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress



Rep. Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



Rep. Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Rep. Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Rep. Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



Rep. Jim Langevin  
Member of Congress



Rep. Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



Rep. Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress



Rep. Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

Rep. Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Rep. Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



Rep. Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Rep. Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



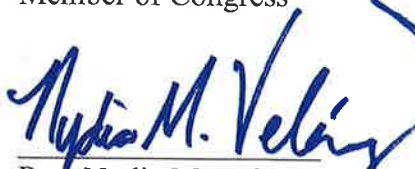
Rep. David Trone  
Member of Congress



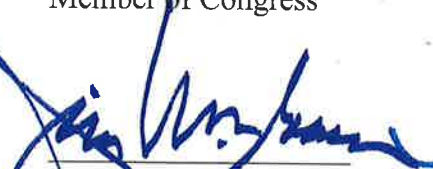
Rep. Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



Rep. Susan DelBene  
Member of Congress



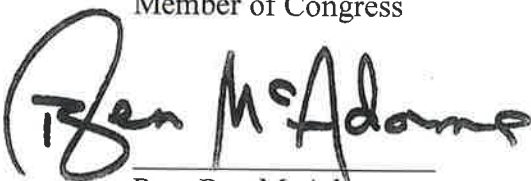
Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Rep. James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



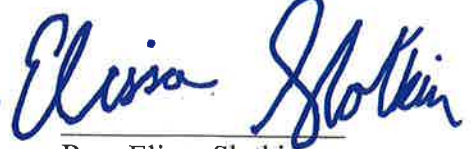
Rep. Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Rep. Ben McAdams  
Member of Congress



Rep. Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Rep. Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



Rep. Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



Rep. John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Rep. Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress



Rep. Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Rep. Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Rep. Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



Rep. Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



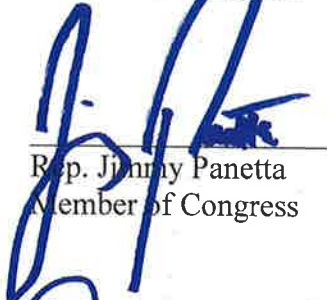
Rep. Kim Schriener, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Rep. Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Rep. Gny Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress



Rep. Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Rep. Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Rep. Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



Rep. Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



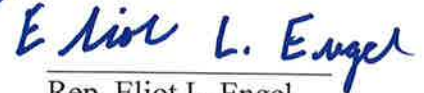
Rep. Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



Rep. Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



Rep. Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



Rep. Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress



Rep. Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



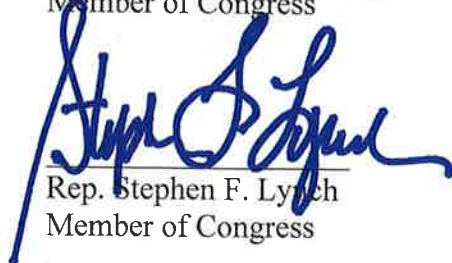
Rep. Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



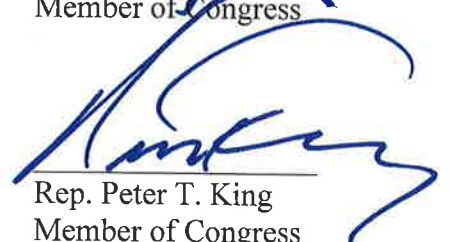
Rep. Andy Levin  
Member of Congress



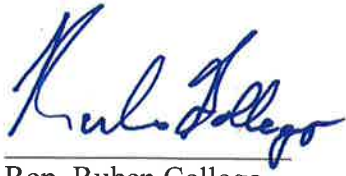
Rep. Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress



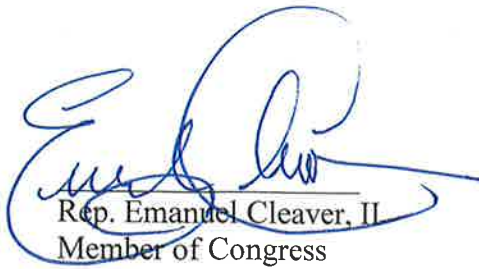
Rep. Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Rep. Peter T. King  
Member of Congress



Rep. Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Rep. Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



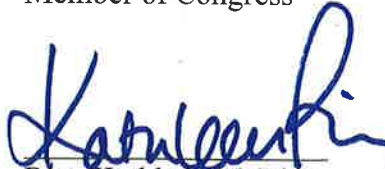
Rep. Abigail D. Spanberger  
Member of Congress



Rep. G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



Rep. Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



Rep. Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress



Rep. Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



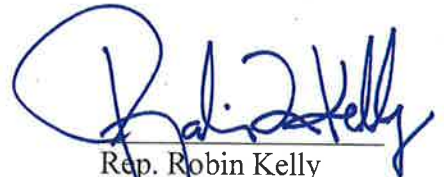
Rep. Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Rep. Daniel W. Lipinski  
Member of Congress



Rep. Robin Kelly  
Member of Congress



Rep. Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Rep. Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



Rep. André Carson  
Member of Congress



Rep. Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



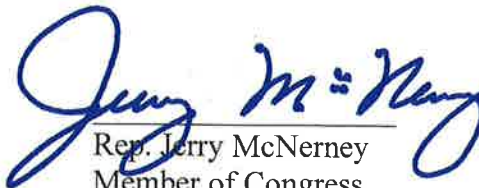
Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress



Rep. Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Rep. Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



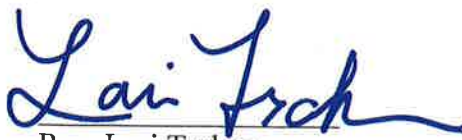
Rep. Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



Rep. Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



Rep. Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress



Rep. Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



Rep. Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress



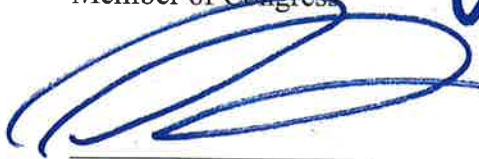
Rep. Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



Rep. Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Rep. Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Rep. Antonio Delgado  
Member of Congress



Rep. Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Rep. Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Rep. Elaine G. Luria  
Member of Congress



Rep. William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



Rep. Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



Rep. Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress



Rep. Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



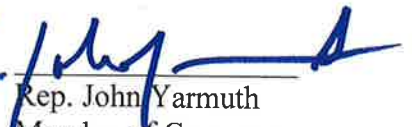
Rep. Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



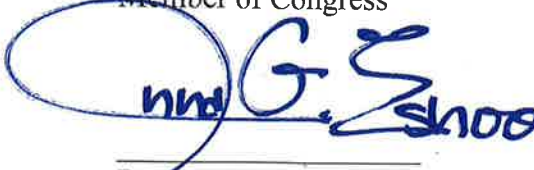
Rep. Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Rep. Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress



Rep. John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



Rep. Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Rep. Alma S. Adams  
Member of Congress



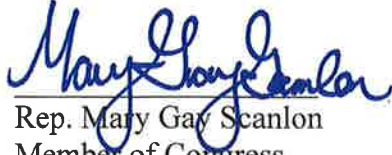
Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



Rep. Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



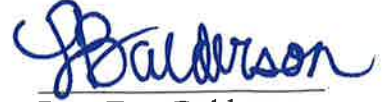
Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



Rep. Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Rep. Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress