

COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Promoting U.S. Global Competence

October 18, 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
The Honorable Richard Shelby, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers, Chairman
The Honorable Norm Dicks, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Denny Rehberg, Chairman
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: FY 2012 Funding for International Education and Foreign Language Studies:
The Higher Education Act, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays 102(b)(6)

Dear House and Senate Appropriations Committee Leadership:

The undersigned organizations of the Coalition for International Education appreciate your support for the U.S. Department of Education's international and foreign language education programs noted above. These programs sustained a \$50 million or 40% reduction in the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution. As you begin final work on resolving differences between the House and Senate versions of the FY 2012 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Bill, we strongly urge you to safeguard these programs from further reductions by providing **no less than the FY 2011 level of \$75.729 million provided in the Senate committee bill. This includes \$66.712 million for the Higher Education Act, Title VI-A&B; \$7.465 million for Fulbright-Hays 102(b)(6); and \$1.552 million for the Title VI-C Institute for International Public Policy.**

Given the nation's severe economic, global and security challenges, maintaining a robust federal investment in these programs is vital to America's wellbeing. The nation continues to face a dangerously short supply of Americans with in-depth knowledge of world regions and international markets, and fluency in foreign languages and their cultures. These skills help to ensure our security and global economic competitiveness, including job creation and sustainable recovery from the economic crisis. The FY 2011 funding reductions already have weakened the educational opportunities needed to address these shortfalls, as well as to prepare our students for the 21st century global workplace.

For example, surveys on the impact of the FY 2011 cuts in the current academic year indicate:

- Reduction or cancellation of hundreds of less commonly taught language and area studies classes will affect over 6,300 students;
- Reductions in international business programs will result in over 4,300 fewer graduates with international business expertise and 10,000 fewer business professionals trained;
- Reductions in language resources and research will result in over 5,900 fewer language teachers trained, involving 29 languages of national need;
- Elimination of funding for overseas research will result in five centers located in strategic host countries closing their facilities or reducing activities, affecting thousands of U.S. scholars and study abroad students;
- Reductions in international and foreign language expertise outreach will force deep cuts to activities in K-12 schools, underrepresented populations, minority institutions of higher education, community colleges, businesses, as well as in federal, state and local agencies, including the military.

We also are deeply concerned that the House bill proposes to eliminate funding for the Fulbright-Hays overseas programs and the Title VI–C Institute for International Public Policy (IIPP) program in FY 2012. Distinct from the Department of State’s Fulbright programs, the Department of Education’s Fulbright programs serve as an essential overseas component to Title VI domestic programs, providing the necessary education abroad opportunities for American students and teachers to gain high levels of proficiency in national need languages and world areas. The Title VI–C IIPP provides critical support and fellowship opportunities to minority serving institutions to prepare a cadre of well-trained, language proficient minority students for international service, thus helping to ensure that those representing the U.S. around the world reflect the diversity that defines us as Americans.

We strongly urge that Congress hold the line from further funding reductions to these vital programs. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Submitted by the following organizations:

African Studies Association
Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
American Political Science Association
American University of Beirut
Asia Society
Association for Asian Studies
Association for International Business Education and Research
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Association of American Universities
Association of International Education Administrators
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries

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Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of American Overseas Research Centers
Council of Directors of National Foreign Language Resource Centers
Council of Directors of National Resource Centers
Council of Graduate Schools
The Forum on Education Abroad
Joint National Committee for Languages
Latin American Studies Association
Middle East Studies Association
Modern Language Association
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Humanities Alliance
North American Small Business International Trade Educators Association
Social Science Research Council
UNCF Special Programs Corporation

cc: Members and Staff of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations