

COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Promoting U.S. Global Competence

December 4, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chairman
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chairman
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
United States Senate

Dear House and Senate Appropriations Committee Leadership,

As you finalize **FY 2018 appropriations** for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, **the undersigned organizations urge adoption of the Senate bill's provisions for International Education and Foreign Language Studies. Specifically, we support \$72.2 million, including \$65.1 million for HEA-Title VI and \$7.1 million for Fulbright-Hays. We greatly appreciate that the comparable House bill also would provide \$65.1 million for Title VI, but are very concerned it would eliminate funding for the Fulbright-Hays overseas programs.** Although representing just 0.1% of the Department of Education's discretionary budget, these bipartisan programs work together to strengthen our economic competitiveness, national security and international leadership, and both should be preserved and funded at least at the FY 2017 levels.

The Coalition believes the **Department of Education's Fulbright-Hays programs** are distinct from the Department of State's Fulbright programs, with specific goals and emphases that differ. While the State Department programs focus on international exchange for mutual understanding, the Fulbright-Hays programs **serve a domestic agenda**. As an essential overseas complement to the *U.S.-based* Title VI programs, Fulbright-Hays programs support the internationalization of the nation's educational infrastructure by strengthening area and foreign language expertise among current and prospective U.S. educators. Administered together in the Department of Education, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs also ensure that there is a ready supply of college graduates with cultural, world regional and language expertise to serve in the Departments of State and Defense, intelligence agencies, and other areas of our government, to strengthen our economic competitiveness in the private sector, and to help prepare future generations of Americans to understand and succeed in the global era.

We appreciate the difficult budgetary decisions ahead as the FY 2018 appropriations process moves forward, but we strongly believe that budget eliminations or reductions should not be made at the expense of strategic national interests.

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Thank you for your consideration of our views. We would be pleased to provide any further information the Congress may need.

Submitted by the following organizations:

African Studies Association
Alliance for International Exchange
American Association of Community Colleges
American Council of Learned Societies
American Council on Education
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
American Councils for International Education
American Historical Association
American Political Science Association
Asia Society
Association for Asian Studies
Association for International Business Education and Research
Association of International Education Administrators
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council of American Overseas Research Centers
Council of Directors of National Resource Centers
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 Coalition for History
National Council for Languages and International Studies
National Humanities Alliance
North American Small Business International Trade Educators Association
Social Science Research Council

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