

COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Promoting U.S. Global Competence

July 20, 2015

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

The Honorable Tom Cole, 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: House Appropriations Committee Action on FY 2016 Funding for International Education and Foreign Language Studies: The Higher Education Act–Title VI and Fulbright-Hays 102(b)(6)

Dear House Committee on Appropriations Leadership:

The undersigned organizations of the Coalition for International Education express our sincere appreciation to you for providing current (FY 2015) funding levels for international education and foreign language studies programs under the committee’s FY 2016 Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. In view of the discretionary spending caps, we believe the House committee’s priority in this context is the best and only strategy for these small but effective programs that already have taken severe reductions.

As you know and the attached chart illustrates, HEA-Title VI and Fulbright-Hays funding was disproportionately reduced \$53.7 million, or 43% by the FY 2011 reductions and subsequent sequester. The Senate committee’s comparable FY 2016 bill proposes a further reduction of \$25.219 million or 35%, which if adopted, would mean an aggregate loss of \$78.955 million or 63% for already weakened programs. We believe a reduction of this magnitude would severely and indefinitely impair these long-standing, bipartisan programs that support the development of U.S. human resource capabilities vital for our national security, economic competitiveness and global engagement.

In 2007, a National Research Council study found that HEA-Title VI and Fulbright-Hays “have served as the foundation for internationalization in higher education at modest cost, while stimulating substantial additional investment by universities themselves.” These programs are the federal government’s most comprehensive for developing and maintaining a steady supply of graduates with deep expertise and high-quality research on foreign languages and cultures, international markets, world regions and global issues that support our diplomatic, defense, commercial and educational interests, among an increasing number of other areas. Federal financial incentives are the lynchpin for ensuring instruction, curricula and research on over 200 less-commonly taught languages and all regions of U.S. strategic interest. International business education programs train our next generation of global managers, support our export initiatives and help to stimulate U.S. jobs. What’s more, Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs broaden access to international education and foreign language studies, and provide opportunities to strengthen teaching of world languages, history and cultures at the K-12 level.

International Education FY 2016 House Appropriations Bill, Page 2 of 3

Other federal programs with more targeted priorities, such as those at the Departments of Defense, Commerce and State, depend on the Title VI/Fulbright-Hays educational infrastructure in order to further their respective strategic goals.

As a consequence of the recent program funding reductions and eliminations, the Title VI/Fulbright-Hays infrastructure already has been downsized, resulting in 25% fewer nationally recognized resource centers, 18% fewer undergraduate and doctoral fellowships, fewer training opportunities for countless numbers of students and teachers, and fewer outreach activities to government and business. This comes at a time when the need for American capabilities and leadership for solving global challenges grows by the day. The stakes are high. Imposing the Senate committee's proposed additional cuts to Title VI/Fulbright-Hays would further severely erode its world-class educational and research capacity that has been built and strengthened over several decades, and which cannot be easily replaced.

While we appreciate the difficult budgetary decisions ahead as the FY 2016 appropriations process moves forward, we strongly believe there are times when a greater priority must be placed on programs such as Title VI/Fulbright-Hays, which support the long-term security and economic well being of Americans in our global era. **We respectfully urge the House committee leadership to hold to the FY 2015 levels for Title VI and Fulbright-Hays in negotiation with the Senate on whatever FY 2016 funding vehicle is decided upon.** We thank you for your support and consideration of our views. We would be pleased to provide any further information the committee may need.

Submitted by the following organizations:

African Studies Association
Alliance for International Educational and Cultural Exchange
American Association of Community Colleges
American Council on Education
American Council of Learned Societies
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
American Councils for International Education
American Political Science Association
American University of Beirut
Asia Society
Association for Asian Studies
Association for International Business Education and Research
Association of International Education Administrators
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
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 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 Appropriations Committee

**International Education FY 2016 House Appropriations Bill
Attachment**

