May 18, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

The undersigned organizations express deep appreciation to the subcommittee for preserving the U.S. Department of Education’s important historical role in international education. We deeply appreciate the House of Representatives’ $17 million increase for FY 2020, which led the way to final enactment of a $4 million increase last year.

As the subcommittee drafts the FY 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we heartily support the Reps. David Price (D-NC) and Don Young (R-AK) bipartisan Dear Colleague letter recommending $106.1 million in funding for International Education and Foreign Language Studies, including $95.7 million for HEA-Title VI and $10.4 million for Fulbright-Hays programs. Due to severe budget limitations in FY 2011, these programs sustained a 43% reduction that has not been replenished or kept pace with inflation since, as shown in the attachment. This request would continue restoring the programs to their FY 2010 levels and build on the progress made to this critical international education infrastructure during the decade after 9-11.

The nation’s security, its economic growth, and its success in confronting global challenges hinge on our ability to engage with diverse cultures at home and around the globe. Multiple GAO reports have cited shortfalls of language and culture skills in the U.S. military, diplomatic and intelligence communities, finding that this 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, cyber security, law enforcement and more, increasingly depend on international knowledge and skills. The COVID-19 global pandemic has made this trend ever more evident. Meanwhile, U.S. corporations continue to seek graduates with international business, language and cultural competencies to help restore and strengthen the U.S. economy in today’s uncertain, evolving global markets.
While these well-documented demands for international skills and knowledge are growing by the day, our educational institutions must be better prepared to meet the challenges ahead. A 2017 Congressionally requested Report of the AAAS Commission on Language Learning in the U.S. recommended an increase in funding for Title VI and Fulbright-Hays to support a 21st century education strategy that “promotes broad access, values international competencies, and nurtures deep expertise in world languages and cultures.”

As the foundation for internationalizing U.S. higher education, this federal-university partnership ensures our nation’s educational capacity and deep knowledge about all world regions, international business, and over 200 foreign languages, and at all levels of education. Multiple federal agencies with complementary international education programs—such as the Departments of Defense, State, Commerce, and intelligence agencies—depend on the Title VI and Fulbright-Hays unique comprehensive infrastructure and resources to further their respective strategic goals. While the Department of Education works to ensure that their programs prioritize the targeted language and world regional resource needs of these agencies, the independent scholarship and diverse perspectives on world regions and international business that these programs enable are often sought by all branches of government.

What’s more, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs expand access to underserved institutions of higher education and populations, provide high quality programs and resources for K-12 schools, and conduct extensive outreach to both public and private sectors.

The proven federal catalytic role in international and foreign language education through Title VI and Fulbright-Hays is an ever more essential strategy for developing—in partnership with our educational institutions—the American capabilities and leadership needed for addressing our contemporary global challenges. We believe reinvesting in these programs is timely.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We appreciate your continued support for these programs, and would be pleased to provide any further information the subcommittee may need.

Submitted by the following thirty-one organizations:

- African Studies Association
- Alliance for International Exchange
- American Anthropological Association
- American Association of Community Colleges
- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
- American Councils for International Education
- American Historical Association
- American Political Science Association
- American Sociological Association
- 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
- Center for Global Education at Asia Society
- Consortium of Social Science Associations
- Council of American Overseas Research 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 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 Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies
COALITION FOR
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
Promoting U.S. Global Competence

FY 2021 FUNDING PROPOSAL
HEA-TITLE VI AND FULBRIGHT-HAYS
–GLOBAL SECURITY EDUCATION INITIATIVE–

Summary
FY 2010, FY2020, & FY 2021 Proposed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>FY2010</th>
<th>FY 2020</th>
<th>FY 2021(^1) CIE Proposed</th>
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<tr>
<td>HEA-Title VI</td>
<td>$110,305,000</td>
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<td>Fulbright-Hays 102(b)(6)</td>
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<td>$76,165,000</td>
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U.S. Department of Education
Title VI & Fulbright-Hays, FY 2010-21
*In Millions USD*

\(^1\) Not adjusted for CPI since FY2010