

# COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

*Promoting U.S. Global Competence*

July 20, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman  
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chairman  
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Senate 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 Senate Committee on Appropriations Leadership:

The undersigned organizations of the Coalition for International Education express our deep concern over the disproportionate \$25.219 million or 35% funding reduction in the international education and foreign language studies programs under the committee’s FY 2016 Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know and the attached chart illustrates, HEA-Title VI and Fulbright-Hays funding already was severely reduced \$53.7 million, or 43% by the FY 2011 reductions and subsequent sequester. The committee’s FY 2016 proposed reduction 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.

We appreciate the difficult budget constraints the committee faced as a result of the discretionary spending caps. We strongly believe, however, 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. **As the appropriations process moves forward, we urge the Senate committee to reconsider its decision on these programs and agree to the House allocation, which provides FY 2015 funding levels for these programs in FY 2016.**

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 Senate 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.

We thank you for 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 Senate Appropriations Committee

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

