

COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Promoting U.S. Global Competence

June 27, 2016

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

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

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Cole and Ranking Members Lowey and DeLauro:

As you consider the FY 2017 funding levels for the various programs within the purview of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee, the undersigned organizations urgently request that the House bill provide at least the FY 2016 funding levels for the U.S. Department of Education's **International Education and Foreign Language Studies – the Higher Education Act Title VI and Fulbright Hays 102(b)(6): \$72.2 million, including \$65.1 million for Title VI and \$7.1 million for Fulbright-Hays.**

While the Senate Appropriations Committee's FY 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies bill provides the FY 2016 funding level for Title VI, we are very concerned about its severe \$4.983 million (69%) reduction to the long-standing Fulbright-Hays overseas program, to \$2.2 million. If enacted, this reduction would be a devastating blow to these valuable programs. Only noncompeting continuation grants would be funded, and no competitions would take place in FY 2017. The critical role these programs play in advancing language and cultural proficiency levels through overseas immersion opportunities would be severely diminished.

Fulbright-Hays funding already has been reduced 54% from \$15.6 million in FY 2010, to \$7.1 million in FY 2016 (see attached chart and fact sheet). As you know, Title VI programs also have sustained significant cuts during this period. The Senate bill, if enacted, would result in a total \$58.6 million or 47% loss for both programs since their FY 2010 combined funding high point.

The Fulbright-Hays programs are an essential overseas complement to the *U.S.-based* Title VI programs. Working in tandem, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs 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.

Any further downsizing of the Title VI/Fulbright-Hays infrastructure and resources would seriously impact the ability of these programs to fulfill this important mission to our national interest. At a time when our national security, economic competitiveness and global engagement challenges call for increased linguistic, regional and cultural competencies, investment in these world-class, bipartisan programs is more vital to America's future than ever.

We hope the House Appropriations Committee is able to avoid further reduction of these programs below their respective FY 2016 funding levels. Thank you for your 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 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 Historical Association
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 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 Appropriations Committee

Enc: Fact Sheet on Fulbright-Hays and Title VI/Fulbright-Hays Funding History

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Fulbright-Hays: Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act, 102(b)(6)

Background

Fulbright-Hays consists of four programs that enable students, faculty and K-12 teachers to achieve advanced language skills and deep cultural knowledge through *overseas* training and research. The Fulbright-Hays programs are an essential complement to the *U.S.-based* Higher Education Act, Title VI programs. Working in tandem, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs 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 prepare future generations of Americans to understand and succeed in the global era.

Currently Funded Programs

Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA): Grants to colleges and universities to fund individual doctoral students to conduct research in other countries, on foreign languages, area and international studies, especially in world regions not generally included in U.S. curricula.

- *A 2008 Department of Education study found that those who participated in the DDRA program are more likely to complete their degrees and do so in less time than their peers, and 90% of grant recipients directly utilize their foreign language and area studies expertise in their careers.*

Group Projects Abroad (GPA): Supports overseas projects in training, research, and curriculum development in foreign languages and area studies for K-16 teachers, students, and faculty. Projects may include short-term seminars, curriculum development, group research or study, or long-term advanced intensive language programs designed to increase language proficiency and world area expertise. Emphasis is on less commonly taught languages and world regions.

- *Recent studies indicate that 74% of Fulbright-Hays GPA participants in semester or academic year programs score one full language proficiency level higher than those of similar students who have not had the opportunity to take part in an overseas immersion experience.*

Funding Crisis

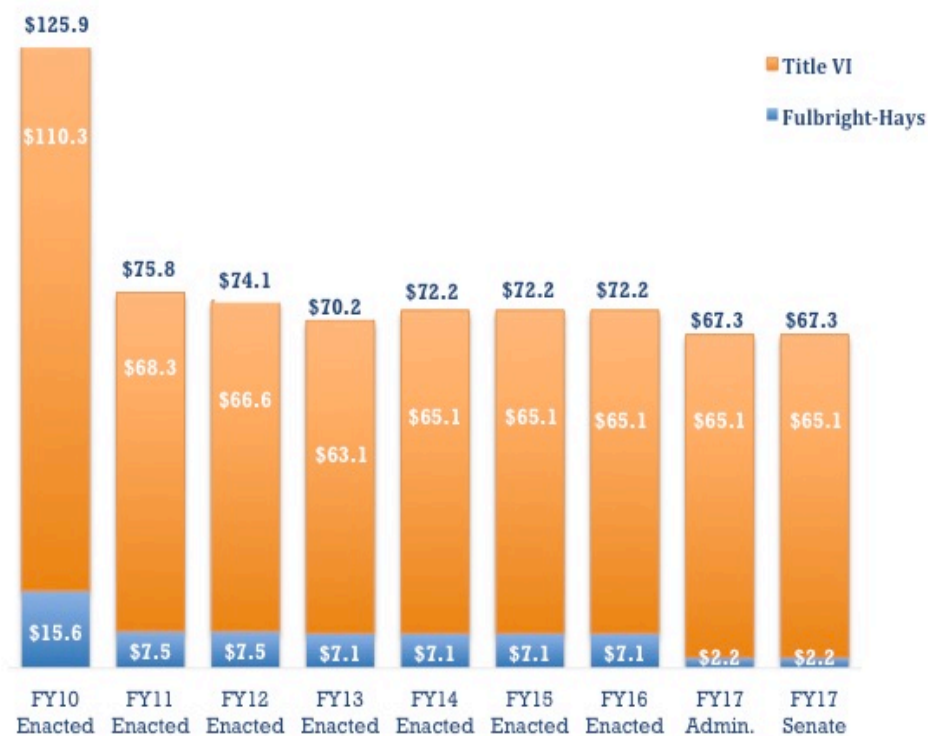
Beginning with FY 2011, Fulbright-Hays funding has been reduced 54% from \$15.6 million in FY 2010, to \$7.1 million in FY 2016 (see chart below). In early June 2016, the Senate Appropriations Committee's FY 2017 Labor/HHS/Education bill further reduced Fulbright-Hays by 69% to \$2.2 million. If enacted, this amount would fund only noncompeting continuation grants under the GPA programs. No new competitions would be held in FY 2017, a devastating blow to the Fulbright-Hays programs. The Senate bill funds Title VI at the FY 2016 level, but Title VI too has sustained significant cuts. The Senate bill, if enacted, would result in a total \$58.6 million or 47% loss for both programs since their FY 2010 combined funding high point.

Authorization & Appropriations Jurisdiction

The U.S. Department of Education’s “Fulbright-Hays” programs were created under the authority of paragraph 102(b)(6) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, a permanent authorization with legislative oversight by the Committee on Foreign Affairs. They are administered by the Office of International and Foreign Language Education in the Department of Education’s Office of Postsecondary Education. Title VI and Fulbright-Hays are funded under the “International Education and Foreign Language Studies” account by the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies.

Funding Request: For FY 2017, we urge the House to fund Title VI and Fulbright-Hays at least at their FY 2016 levels of \$65.1 million and \$7.1 million respectively, \$72.2 million in total.

U.S. Department of Education Title VI & Fulbright-Hays Budget, FY10-17 *In Millions USD*



Coalition for International Education, June 2016