

COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Promoting U.S. Global Competence

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

Background

Fulbright-Hays consists of 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. Fulbright-Hays is a specialized section of the Fulbright Act (see below) that is complementary to the purposes of HEA-Title VI and hence placed in the Department of Education for administration along with Title VI. Fulbright-Hays overseas programs contribute to the effectiveness of Title VI, which are largely domestic programs.

A National Research Council study found these programs working in tandem to be the “foundation” for internationalizing U.S. higher education. 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. The Fulbright-Hays programs also reach teachers of foreign language, world literature, world history, and geography in K-16 classrooms throughout the U.S., and stand as the principle overseas mechanism for these educators to increase their language abilities and improve the quality of language and cultural instruction in U.S. schools, colleges, and universities.

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. FY 2017 funding is \$7.1 million. The Administration's FY 2018 budget proposes the elimination of this program. However, contrary to Administration claims, Fulbright-Hays does not duplicate other federal programs, including the State Department's Fulbright programs as noted above. The Subcommittee's FY 2018 bill unfortunately eliminates funding and omits long-standing reference to "section 102(b)(6) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961" in the House draft bill (page 111).

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.