

COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Promoting U.S. Global Competence

December 15, 2022

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert C. “Bobby” Scott
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear House and Senate Leaders, Chairs and Ranking Members,

As the House and Senate strive for a bipartisan FY 2023 Omnibus Appropriations Bill over the next week, the undersigned organizations write to urge robust funding for HEA-Title VI, International Education, and Fulbright-Hays programs by including the House FY 2023 provision of \$88.664 million. At a time when needed most, this amount will supplement recent House and Senate efforts to restore and strengthen capacity to these critical programs following a decade of severe funding reductions that began in FY 2011.

Moreover, if policy legislation will be added to the Omnibus Bill this year, we strongly urge inclusion of the bipartisan HEA-Title VI reauthorization as considered under the *United States Innovation and Competition Act (USICA) of 2021 and the America COMPETES Act of 2022*.

The need is urgent. High-level expertise continues to be of vital importance to our defense, intelligence, and diplomatic communities in order to cope with expanding threats in multiple world regions, as demonstrated by the war in Ukraine. At the same time, however, growing security challenges in issue areas such as global health, environment, law enforcement, food production, cyber security, the global supply chain and more, increasingly rely on professional level foreign language abilities, cultural and regional knowledge, and experience abroad. The continuing global COVID challenge with its subsequent variants has made this trend ever more evident. *The most recent U.S. Department of Education survey of the number of foreign languages of priority to Federal agencies has doubled, compared with similar surveys since 2009.* Meanwhile, U.S. employers seek more graduates with international business, language and cultural competencies to help restore and strengthen the U.S. economy in today's uncertain, evolving global markets.

The pending Title VI reauthorization provisions continue and strengthen the key Title VI *foundational* programs that address the nation's critical and expanding needs for deep expertise in foreign languages, world regions and international business. Additionally, programmatic enhancements and new provisions will provide students with innovative opportunities to obtain the international experience and skills in growing demand across the wide range of professional and technical fields, including those mentioned above and more. New provisions also will incentivize research and innovation in U.S. international education capacity, organization and delivery to meet 21st century challenges, as well as expand international and foreign language education to traditionally underserved students and institutions.

To achieve these goals and outcomes moving forward as quickly as possible, the Title VI reauthorization must be passed this year, together with robust funding support.

We heartily applaud the Congress for enhancing and reinvesting in this important, longstanding federal-university partnership that strengthens our security, global engagement and competitiveness overall.

Thank you for your continued support for these programs and consideration of our urgent request.

Submitted by the following 32 organizations:

African Studies Association
Alliance for International Exchange
American Association of Community Colleges
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 Society for Engineering Education
Association for Asian Studies
Association for International Business Education and Research
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Association of International Education Administrators
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Research Libraries
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

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