

# COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

*Promoting U.S. Global Competence*

November 19, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Chairwoman  
The Honorable Jerry Moran, Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman  
The Honorable Richard Shelby, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

RE: FY 2015 Funding for International Education and Foreign Language Studies:  
The Higher Education Act–Title VI and Fulbright-Hays 102(b)(6)

Dear House and Senate Appropriations Committee Leadership:

The undersigned organizations of the Coalition for International Education appreciate your support for the U.S. Department of Education’s international and foreign language education programs noted above. As you consider the omnibus funding bill for FY 2015, we strongly urge your support for the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies FY 2015 bill’s funding level for these programs. The Senate proposal would increase International Education and Foreign Language Studies to \$81.164 million, a \$9 million increase over the FY 2014 level of \$72.164 million. This level includes \$74.103 million for HEA-Title VI, a \$9 million increase over FY 2014, and \$7.061 million for Fulbright-Hays overseas programs, the same level as FY 2014.

As you know, these programs have sustained severe budget reductions since FY 2010. We recommend that since Fulbright-Hays has not been increased since its 52% budget reduction in FY 2011, that \$1 million in new funding be used to begin restoring the Fulbright overseas programs, particularly for doctoral dissertation abroad and advanced critical language study overseas. We also recommend that after accounting for the \$5 million increase in funding provided for study abroad, the remaining \$3 million increase for Title VI be devoted to programs that increase opportunities for students and faculty in regional, global, foreign language and international business studies and research, including outreach to K-12 and underrepresented populations. During the recent FY 2014 competition for these programs, the number and size of grants were reduced significantly, while many well-qualified applications were not awarded due to lack of funds.

Title VI and Fulbright-Hays are the nation's longest-serving, most comprehensive programs that develop and maintain a strong, world-class foundation for international education and foreign language studies. In our increasingly interconnected world, global competence is vital to ensuring U.S. capabilities in national security, global leadership, economic competitiveness, as well as mutual understanding and collaboration for solving global challenges. As the nation's employers face increasing demands for Americans with in-depth knowledge of world regions and international markets, and fluency in foreign languages and their cultures, a robust federal investment in these historically bipartisan programs continues to be vital to America's future.

We thank you again for your support and consideration of our views.

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 House and Senate Committees on Appropriations