

# COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

*Promoting U.S. Global Competence*

November 12, 2015

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:

The undersigned organizations are pleased that a budget agreement has now been reached providing additional discretionary funding for the Congress to utilize in developing its final FY 2016 appropriations. As you undertake resolving the FY 2016 funding levels for the various programs within the purview of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee, the undersigned organizations urge you to maintain the funding levels included in the House Appropriations Committee's FY 2016 bill for **International Education and Foreign Language Studies – the Higher Education Act Title VI and Fulbright Hays 102(b)(6)**. The House Committee's funding levels would maintain the \$72.2 million available in FY 2015 for these comparatively small, but critical programs, which includes \$65.1 million for Title VI and \$7.1 million for Fulbright-Hays. The Senate Committee's FY 2016 comparable bill proposes a \$25.219 million or 35% reduction.

As you know, 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. Since the \$53.7 million or 43% cut to these programs in FY 2011 have severely reduced their infrastructure, any further reduction 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 continues to be vital to America's future.

We appreciate that your Committee was able to avoid further reduction of these programs below the FY 2015 level, and trust that you will be able to prevail on your Senate counterparts to restore their proposed \$25.219 million cut in the final FY 2016 bill. Thank you for your consideration of our views. We would be pleased to provide any further information the committee may need.

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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 in Cairo  
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 Appropriations Committee