

COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Promoting U.S. Global Competence

November 12, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human
Services, Education and related agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Blunt and Ranking Members Mikulski and Murray:

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 your agreement to 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. This amount would fully restore the \$25.219 million or 35% proposed reduction in the Senate Committee's FY 2016 comparable bill.

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 thank you for your consideration of our views. We would be pleased to provide any further information the committee may need.

International Education FY 2016 Final Appropriations, Page 2 of 2

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 Senate Appropriations Committee