

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you draft your Fiscal Year 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill, we request that you include at least \$72.16 million for International Education and Foreign Language Studies, \$65.1 million for HEA-Title VI and \$7.06 million for Fulbright-Hays programs.

Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs have had a tremendous impact on our nation over the years by developing a strong foundation in international education, research, and foreign language studies, especially in the less-commonly taught languages of U.S. strategic interest.

Multiple GAO reports have cited shortfalls of language and culture skills in the U.S. military and intelligence community, finding that our nation's language deficit could threaten our priorities and missions around the globe. Meanwhile, America's business and their clientele are diversifying and globalizing their operations, requiring language skills to access global markets.

The Commission on Language Learning of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, requested by Congress in 2014, released its final report on February 28, 2017. The data demonstrates that "by several measures, the United States has neglected languages in its educational curricula, its international strategies, and its domestic policies." It is clear that effective communication is the basis of international cooperation, and a strong national defense depends substantially on the ability of Americans to communicate and compete by knowing the languages and cultures of other countries.

Strong academic programs in critical foreign languages and intensive training in multi-disciplinary regional studies -- including socio-economic, cultural, security, and religious and business aspects, among others -- are vital to our national security and global economic competitiveness. But beyond the intensive curriculum development and related academic programming resulting from these programs, Title VI resources make possible extensive outreach to K-12 classrooms, strong collaborations between four-year postsecondary institutions and community colleges, and strengthened ties between U. S. postsecondary institutions and international partners.

The various programs funded under this account serve to strengthen the nation's educational infrastructure in areas where the need grows greater by the day. Unfortunately, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs have been weakened by recent budget reductions at the very time their importance has grown. Therefore, we strongly urge at least level funding for these programs to preserve this critical international and foreign language education infrastructure in FY19. This is a small but vitally important investment in our nation's education, national security, and economic competitiveness.

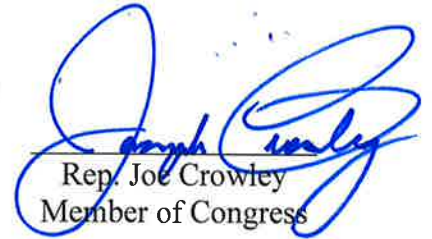
Sincerely,



Rep. David Price
Member of Congress



Rep. Don Young
Member of Congress



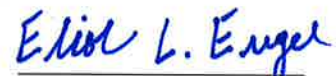
Rep. Joe Crowley
Member of Congress



Rep. Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress



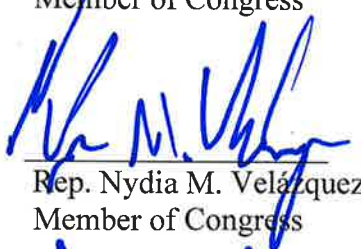
Rep. Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Rep. Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



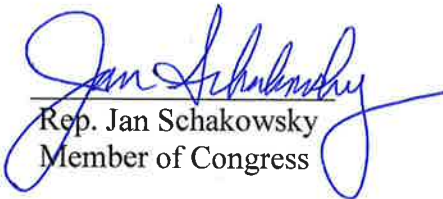
Rep. Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



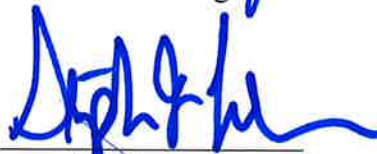
Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Rep. Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Rep. Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Rep. Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



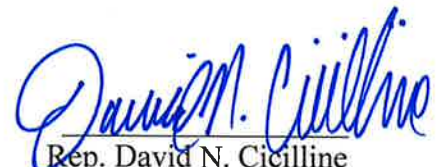
Rep. André Carson
Member of Congress



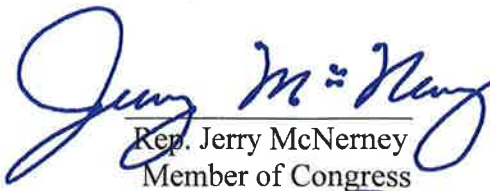
Rep. Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Rep. Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress

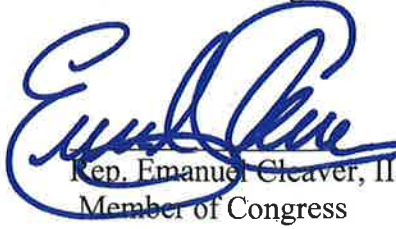


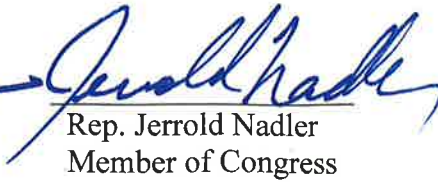
Rep. David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

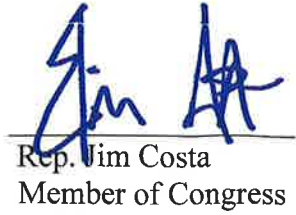

Rep. Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress


Rep. Diana DeGette
Member of Congress


Rep. G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress


Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

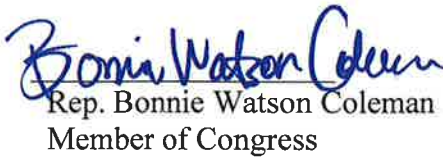

Rep. Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

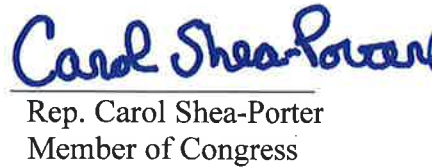

Rep. Jim Costa
Member of Congress


Rep. Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress


Rep. Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress


Rep. Ron Kind
Member of Congress


Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress


Rep. Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

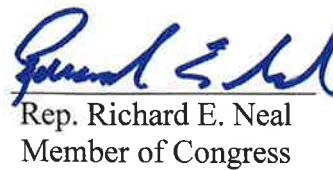

Rep. Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

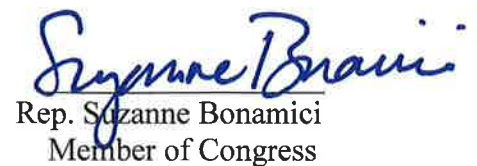

Rep. Bill Foster
Member of Congress


Rep. Dwight Evans
Member of Congress


Rep. Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress


Rep. Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress


Rep. Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

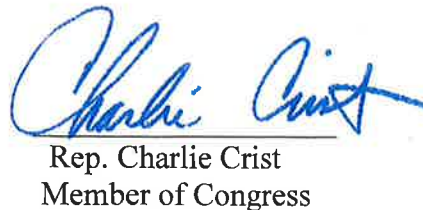

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Rep. Mike Doyle
Member of Congress


Rep. Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress


Rep. Ruben J. Kihuen
Member of Congress


Rep. John Lewis
Member of Congress


Rep. Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



Rep. John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Rep. Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress



Rep. Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Rep. Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Rep. Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Rep. Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Rep. Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Rep. Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Rep. Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



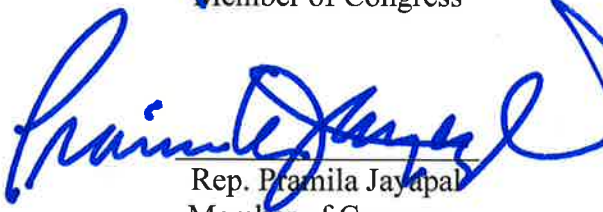
Rep. Jim Himes
Member of Congress



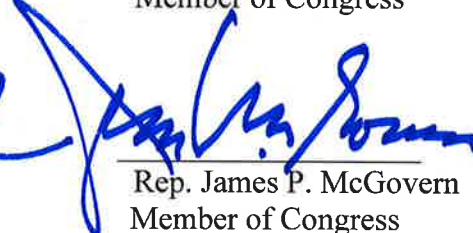
Rep. Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



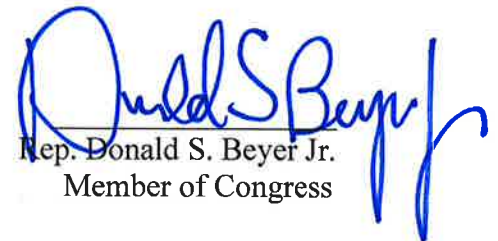
Rep. Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



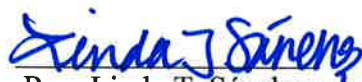
Rep. Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Rep. James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Rep. Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Rep. Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



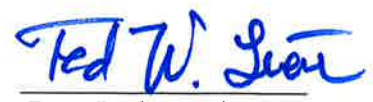
Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



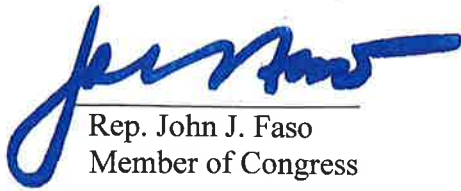
Rep. Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



Rep. Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Rep. Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

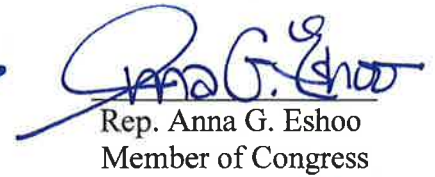

Rep. John J. Faso
Member of Congress


Rep. Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

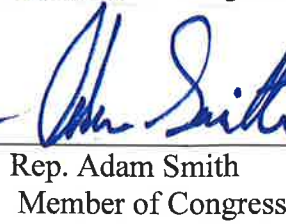

Rep. Keith Ellison
Member of Congress


Rep. Jim Langevin
Member of Congress

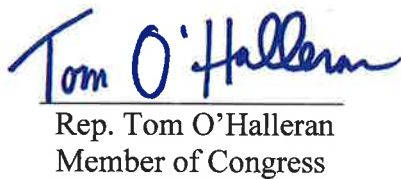

Rep. Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress


Rep. Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress


Rep. Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress


Rep. Adam Smith
Member of Congress


Rep. Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

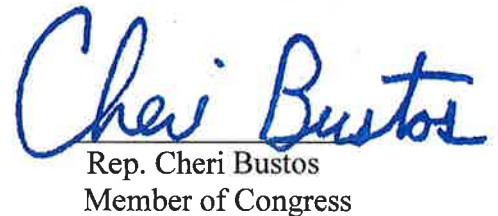

Rep. Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress


Rep. Brian Higgins
Member of Congress


Rep. Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress


Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress


Rep. David Scott
Member of Congress


Rep. Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings

Rep. Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa

Rep. J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva

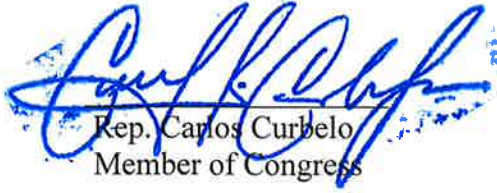
Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Alma Adams

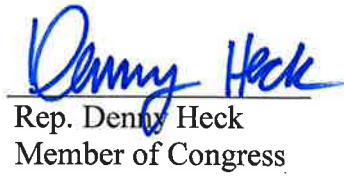
Rep. Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress

William R. Keating

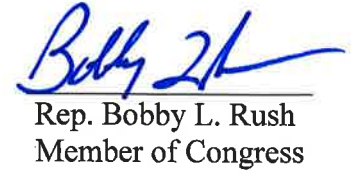
Rep. William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Rep. Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress



Rep. Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Rep. Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress