

# COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

*Promoting U.S. Global Competence*

May 18, 2020

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 136  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 156  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray,

The undersigned organizations express deep appreciation to the subcommittee for preserving the U.S. Department of Education's important historical role in international education, which includes your support for a \$4 million increase last year. We also applaud the Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Todd Young (R-IN) bipartisan Dear Colleague letter this year urging robust funding for these programs in the FY 2021 appropriations.

As you draft the subcommittee's FY 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, **we urge \$106.1 million in funding for International Education and Foreign Language Studies, including \$95.7 million for HEA-Title VI and \$10.4 million for Fulbright-Hays programs.** Due to severe budget limitations in FY 2011, these programs sustained a 43% reduction that has not been replenished or kept pace with inflation since, as shown in the attachment. This request would continue restoring the programs to their FY 2010 levels and build on the progress made to this critical international education infrastructure during the decade after 9-11.

The nation's security, its economic growth, and its success in confronting global challenges hinge on our ability to engage with diverse cultures at home and around the globe. Multiple GAO reports have cited shortfalls of language and culture skills in the U.S. military, diplomatic and intelligence communities, finding that this deficit could threaten our priorities and missions around the globe. At the same time, growing security challenges in other issue areas such as global health, environment, food production, cyber security, law enforcement and more, increasingly depend on international knowledge and skills. The COVID-19 global pandemic has made this trend ever more evident. Meanwhile, U.S. firms continue to 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.

While these well-documented demands for international skills and knowledge are growing by the day, our educational institutions must be better prepared to meet the challenges ahead. A 2017 Congressionally requested [\*Report of the AAAS Commission on Language Learning in the U.S.\*](#) recommended an increase in funding for Title VI and Fulbright-Hays to support a 21<sup>st</sup> century education strategy that “promotes broad access, values international competencies, and nurtures deep expertise in world languages and cultures.”

As the *foundation* for internationalizing U.S. higher education, this federal-university partnership ensures our nation’s educational capacity and deep knowledge about all world regions, international business, and over 200 foreign languages, and at all levels of education. Multiple federal agencies with complementary international education programs—such as the Departments of Defense, State, Commerce, and intelligence agencies—depend on the Title VI and Fulbright-Hays unique comprehensive infrastructure and resources to further their respective strategic goals. While the Department of Education works to ensure that their programs prioritize the targeted language and world regional resource needs of these agencies, the independent scholarship and diverse perspectives on world regions and international business that these programs enable are often sought by all branches of government.

What’s more, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs expand access to underserved institutions of higher education and populations, provide high quality programs and resources for K-12 schools, and conduct extensive outreach to both public and private sectors.

The proven federal catalytic role in international and foreign language education through Title VI and Fulbright-Hays is an ever more essential strategy for developing—in partnership with our educational institutions—the American capabilities and leadership needed for addressing our contemporary global challenges. We believe reinvesting in these programs is timely.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We appreciate your continued support for these programs, and would be pleased to provide any further information the subcommittee may need.

**Submitted by the following thirty-one organizations:**

African Studies Association  
Alliance for International Exchange  
American Anthropological Association  
American Association of Community Colleges  
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages  
American Councils for International Education  
American Historical Association  
American Political Science Association  
American Sociological Association  
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  
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

**International Education FY 2021 Appropriations, Page 3 of 4**

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

cc: Members and Staff of the Senate Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education and  
Related Agencies

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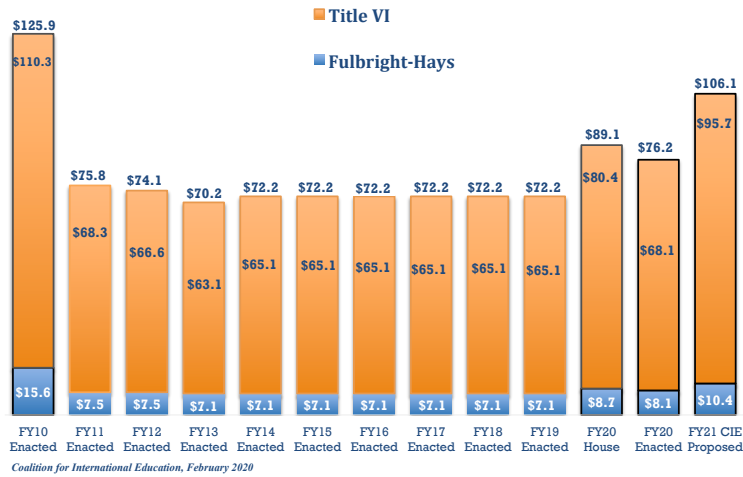
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## FY 2021 FUNDING PROPOSAL HEA-TITLE VI AND FULBRIGHT-HAYS -GLOBAL SECURITY EDUCATION INITIATIVE-

### Summary FY 2010, FY2020, & FY 2021 Proposed

Fiscal Year	FY2010	FY 2020	FY 2021 <sup>1</sup> <i>CIE Proposed</i>
HEA-Title VI	\$110,305,000	\$68,103,000	\$95,728,674
Fulbright-Hays 102(b)(6)	\$ 15,600,000	\$ 8,061,000	\$10,404,170
<b>TVI/FH Total:</b>	<b>\$125,905,000</b>	<b>\$76,165,000</b>	<b>\$106,132,844</b>

### U.S. Department of Education Title VI & Fulbright-Hays, FY 2010-21 *In Millions USD*



<sup>1</sup> Not adjusted for CPI since FY2010