

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health  
and Human Services, Education,  
and Related Agencies  
2358-B Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health  
and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
1036 Longworth Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you draft your Fiscal Year 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill, we request that you include \$151.4 million in funding for International Education and Foreign Language Studies. This includes \$134.3 million for Higher Education Act-Title VI and \$17.1 million for Fulbright-Hays programs.

Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs have helped our nation develop a strong foundation in international education, research, and world language studies, especially in the less-commonly taught languages that hold special strategic interest for our national defense and diplomatic presence around the world.

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. At the same time, an expanding range of sectors—including health, environment, food production, cybersecurity, and law enforcement—increasingly depend on their employees to possess international knowledge. Meanwhile, America's business and their clientele are diversifying and globalizing their operations, requiring language skills and cultural knowledge to compete successfully in global markets.

At the request of Congress, the Commission on Language Learning of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences released a report in 2017 demonstrating that “by several measures, the United States has neglected languages in its educational curricula, its international strategies, and its domestic policies.” The Commission found that the U.S. educational system is not fully prepared to meet the rapidly growing demands for professionals and educators with area, regional, international, and world language knowledge.

Strong academic programs in critical world languages and intensive training in multi-disciplinary regional studies—including socio-economic, cultural, security, and religious and business aspects—are vital, and robust federal funding is essential to ensuring that students from all racial and socio-economic backgrounds can access these high-quality programs. Beyond the intensive curriculum development and related academic programming, 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.

Effective communication is the basis of international cooperation. We know that the well-being of the United States depends substantially on its citizens' ability to communicate and compete by knowing the languages and cultures of other countries. In 2020, five international academies issued a joint statement titled "The Importance of Languages in Global Context." This international call to action emphasized the importance of increased investment in language education during the COVID-19 pandemic: clear and precise communication between nations is more important than ever in this global health crisis.

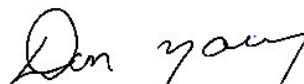
The various programs funded under this account serve to strengthen our nation's educational infrastructure in areas where the need grows greater by the day. We are thankful for your commitment to these programs and the increased funding provided in the prior two fiscal years. We hope to build on this progress and provide \$151.4 million for the Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs, which would reverse a decade of sequestration and restore the programs to their Fiscal Year 2010 funding levels, adjusted for inflation. This is a small but vitally important investment in our nation's education, national security, and economic competitiveness.

Sincerely,



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Rep. David E. Price  
Member of Congress



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Rep. Don Young  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

**FY 2022 HEA-Title VI and Fulbright Hays Funding Letter**  
**List of 116 Signatories**  
**April 28, 2021**

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