

COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Promoting U.S. Global Competence

July 1, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Chairwoman
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
The Honorable Jerry Moran, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies Appropriations
United States Senate

Members and Staff of the House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations

FROM: The Coalition for International Education

RE: FY 2014 Funding for International Education and Foreign Language Studies:
The Higher Education Act, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays 102(b)(6)

The undersigned organizations of the Coalition for International Education appreciate the continued Congressional support for the U.S. Department of Education's international and foreign language education programs noted above. These world-class programs maintain a strong foundation for our nation's international education and foreign language studies, vital to ensuring U.S. capabilities in national security, global leadership, economic competitiveness, as well as mutual understanding and collaboration around the world.

We remain deeply concerned about **the three-year accumulated \$55.7 million or 44% funding reduction** to the Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs. Recent campus surveys indicate that the prolonged cuts have eroded programs, staffing and the overall international education and research infrastructure, putting at risk the preparation of our next generation of international experts and a globally competitive workforce. **We therefore strongly urge Congress to begin restoring Title VI and Fulbright-Hays by providing robust funding in FY 2014, at minimum the President's FY 2014 request of \$80.938 million, which is an increase of \$10.774 million over the post-sequester FY 2013 appropriation of \$70.164 million.**

FY 2014 is critical budget year for these programs. The FY 2014 budget will fund the next 4-year competitions for the core Title VI world region, language and international business centers and fellowships. Program reductions on the magnitude of 49% to 57% over the last three years have compromised the centers' capabilities to fulfill their missions. The substantial gains made with the post-9/11 Congressional investments to enhance training, research and outreach on

strategic priorities are being lost, as federal funding reductions are not being permanently replaced with nonfederal funds. Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs act as the lynchpin, or multiplier incentive, for nonfederal investment in the less-commonly-taught languages, world regions, transnational issues and international business education of *national* interest, which historically have not been priorities of state and local governments. Significantly reduced funding levels carried forward or reduced further in FY 2014 also could result in fewer numbers of (175) centers throughout the U.S., further destabilizing this critical education infrastructure.

At the same time, other vital Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs for strengthening the international education and research pipeline have been eliminated or drastically reduced. In our interconnected world, the needs for imparting basic global competencies to students across the educational spectrum grow by the day.

The Title VI/Fulbright-Hays federal-university partnership is a modest investment—0.1% of the Department of Education’s budget—that pays huge dividends. These programs ensure a steady supply of U.S. experts, prepare Americans for the global workplace, and generate knowledge on the foreign languages and business, economic, political, social, cultural and regional affairs of other countries and world areas. Other federal programs with more targeted priorities, such as those at the Departments of Defense, Commerce and State, depend on the Title VI/Fulbright-Hays educational infrastructure and resources.

From ambassadors to university presidents, to Presidential advisors and Cabinet officials, **Title VI/Fulbright-Hays beneficiaries** also serve or have served in various positions in education, business, government, and NGOs, such as:

- **Congressional Research Service (CRS) Specialist in International Security**, providing analytical support to Members and staff to help frame national security debates, and the lead CRS expert on strategy and military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq;
- **Presidential Translator** for the Washington-Moscow Direct Communication Link;
- **National Security Council Director** for Russia and Central Asia;
- **CIA operative**, who played a critical role in the battle at Qala-I Janghi Prison during the early stages of the Afghanistan war;
- **Countless U.S. Army Foreign Area Officers (FAOs) and Department of State Foreign Service Officers** in all regions of the world;
- **Professor of South East Asian Studies** at the U.S. Naval Academy;
- **Professor of Arabic** at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point;
- **USAID/Bureau for Food Security Deputy Assistant Administrator**, providing oversees technical and regional expertise for improving food security and reducing rural poverty;
- **Microsoft Learning Product Manager**, using international business skills (market access, communication, analysis, strategy) and language/cultural competencies in both emerging and developed markets;
- **Medical doctor**, who created an NGO in Guatemala that provides indigenous populations with healthcare in their own Mayan language, and uses Spanish at home to treat non-English speaking immigrants in local Boston hospitals;
- **Assistant Professor of Political Science** (African studies) at Morehouse College; and
- **Middle school Arabic teacher** in Minneapolis.

We strongly urge your leadership in making a renewed Congressional commitment to this modest yet productive investment so vital to our national interest. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

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: ACTR/ACCELS
American Political Science Association
American University of Beirut
Asia Society
Association for Asian Studies
Association for International Business Education and Research
Association of International Education Administrators
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council of American Overseas Research Centers
Council of Directors of National Foreign Language Resource 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
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