

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 24, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-128 United States Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-146A United States Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health & Human Services and  
Education  
135 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

As you work to resolve the FY 2016 funding levels for programs within the purview of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee, we 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 relatively small, but critical programs, which includes \$65.1 million for HEA-Title VI and \$7.1 million for Fulbright-Hays. This amount would fully restore the \$25.2 million or 35% proposed reduction in the Senate Committee's FY 2016 comparable bill.

HEA-Title VI and Fulbright-Hays are the federal government's most comprehensive international education programs. They play a significant role in developing a steady supply of graduates with deep expertise and high quality research on foreign languages and cultures, international markets, world regions, and global issues. Graduates of these programs are essential to our diplomatic, defense, commercial, and educational interests, among many other areas of society.

Now more than ever, we must engage internationally. Strong academic programs in critical foreign languages and intensive training in regional studies are vital to our national security. This exposure ensures a deep understanding of the socio-economic, cultural, security, and religious underpinnings of today's international conflicts. These programs are also vital to our economic success as our students prepare to compete in an increasingly global market. The impact of these programs extends well beyond traditional four-year colleges, as resources are leveraged for outreach to K-12 classrooms,

collaborations between four-year colleges and community colleges, and strengthened ties between U.S. postsecondary institutions and international partners.

Due to the \$53.7 million or 43% funding reductions and eliminations since FY 2011, the Title VI/Fulbright-Hays educational infrastructure has already shrunk. This reduction has resulted in 25% fewer nationally recognized resource centers, 18% fewer undergraduate and doctoral fellowships, fewer training opportunities for students and teachers, and fewer outreach activities to government and business. These reductions come at a time when the need for American capabilities and leadership for solving global challenges grows by the day. The stakes are high. Imposing the Senate committee's proposed additional cuts to Title VI/Fulbright-Hays would further severely erode the world-class educational and research capacity that has been built over several decades and which cannot be easily replaced.

We strongly urge you to restore funding levels for Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs. 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 critical to America's future.

Sincerely,



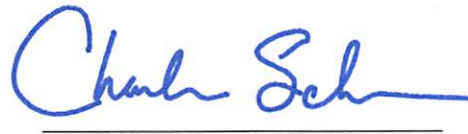
BRIAN SCHATZ  
United States Senator



MARK KIRK  
United States Senator



TAMMY BALDWIN  
United States Senator



CHARLES E. SCHUMER  
United States Senator



MAZIE K. HIRONO  
United States Senator



JOE DONNELLY  
United States Senator

Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly a header or title.

Second block of faint, illegible text, appearing to be the beginning of a paragraph.

Third block of faint, illegible text, continuing the paragraph.

Fourth block of faint, illegible text, possibly a concluding sentence or a separate line of text.

*Handwritten signature*

*Handwritten signature*

*Handwritten signature*

*Handwritten signature*

*Handwritten signature*

*Handwritten signature*



RON WYDEN  
United States Senator



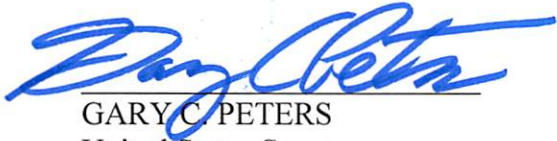
ELIZABETH WARREN  
United States Senator



SHERROD BROWN  
United States Senator



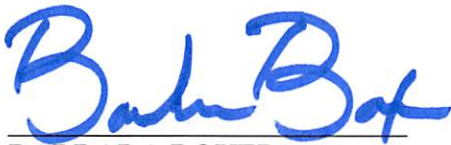
KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND  
United States Senator



GARY C. PETERS  
United States Senator



JACK REED  
United States Senator



BARBARA BOXER  
United States Senator



ROBERT P. CASEY JR.  
United States Senator



DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
United States Senator

Elizabeth

Elizabeth

John

John

John

John

John

John