April 4, 2014

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
On Labor, Health and Human Services and Education
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
On Labor, Health and Human Services and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you draft your Fiscal Year 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill, we request that you include robust funding for Title VI/ Fulbright-Hays International Education and Foreign Language 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. The Fiscal Year 2015 budget is particularly critical because the nation’s premier Title VI language, area, and international business resource centers and fellowships will compete for the next cycle of four-year grants. Given the 41 percent funding reduction since Fiscal Year 2011, without an adequate restoration of Title VI funds, we could potentially lose nearly half of these centers that form the cornerstone of the nation’s deep international knowledge and expertise.

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. Strong academic programs in critical foreign languages and intensive training in multi-disciplinary regional studies including socio-economic, cultural, security, and religious aspects among others are vital to our national security. It is also important to keep in mind that, beyond the intensive curriculum development and related academic programming that is possible thanks to these programs, these 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.

We strongly urge robust funding for these programs to preserve this critical international and foreign language education infrastructure. This is a small, but vitally important investment both in education and national security, as well as economic competitiveness.
Sincerely,

Rush Holt  
Member of Congress

David Price  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

John Lewis  
Member of Congress

Shelia Jackson Lee  
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James P. McGovern  
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Michael H. Michaud  
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James P. Moran  
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Charles B. Rangel  
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Todd C. Young  
Member of Congress

Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress