

# COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

*Promoting U.S. Global Competence*

December 5, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chairman  
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey, Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman  
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chairman  
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
United States Senate

Dear House and Senate Appropriations Committee Leadership,

As you finalize **FY 2018 appropriations** for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, **the undersigned organizations urge adoption of the Senate bill's provisions for International Education and Foreign Language Studies. Specifically, we support \$72.2 million, including \$65.1 million for HEA-Title VI and \$7.1 million for the Fulbright-Hays. We greatly appreciate that the comparable House bill also would provide \$65.1 million for Title VI, but it would eliminate funding for the Fulbright-Hays overseas programs.** Although representing just 0.1% of the Department of Education's discretionary budget, these bipartisan programs work together to strengthen our economic competitiveness, national security and international leadership, and both should be preserved and funded at least at the FY 2017 levels.

The Coalition believes the Department of Education's Fulbright-Hays programs are distinct from the Department of State's Fulbright programs, with specific goals and emphases that differ. While the State Department programs focus on international exchange for mutual understanding, the Fulbright-Hays programs serve a domestic agenda. As an essential overseas complement to the *U.S.-based* Title VI programs, Fulbright-Hays programs support the internationalization of the nation's educational infrastructure by strengthening area and foreign language expertise among current and prospective U.S. educators. Administered together in the Department of Education, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs also ensure that there is a ready supply of college graduates with cultural, world regional and language expertise to serve in the Departments of State and Defense, intelligence agencies, and other areas of our government, to strengthen our economic competitiveness in the private sector, and to help prepare future generations of Americans to understand and succeed in the global era.

We appreciate the difficult budgetary decisions ahead as the FY 2018 appropriations process moves forward, but we strongly believe that budget eliminations or reductions should not be made at the expense of strategic national interests.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We would be pleased to provide any further information the Congress may need.

Submitted by:

Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA)



cc: Members and Staff of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees