

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**Support Foreign Language Learning in FY 2018 Appropriations**

*\*This is a programmatic request\**

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in urging the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education to include at least \$72.16 million for International Education and Foreign Language Studies for Fiscal Year 2018, \$65.1 million for HEA-Title VI and \$7.06 million for Fulbright-Hays 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 various programs funded under this account serve to strengthen the nation's educational infrastructure in areas where the need grows greater by the day. The future national security and economic well-being of the United States will depend substantially on the ability of its citizens to communicate and compete by knowing the languages and cultures of other countries.

Unfortunately, the United States lags in the percentage of its citizens who have some knowledge of a second language as compared to other nations. To address these gaps, we need strong academic programs in critical foreign languages and intensive training in multi-disciplinary regional studies that are vital to our global economic competitiveness and priorities around the world.

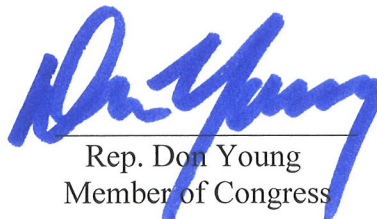
We hope that you will join us in requesting that at least level funding be provided for Title VI/ Fulbright-Hays International Education and Foreign Language programs in the Labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. For more information or to sign-on, please contact Nora (Price) at [nora.blalock@mail.house.gov](mailto:nora.blalock@mail.house.gov), Alex (D. Young) at [alex.ortiz@mail.house.gov](mailto:alex.ortiz@mail.house.gov), or Todd (Crowley) at [todd.sloves@mail.house.gov](mailto:todd.sloves@mail.house.gov) on our staff.

*The deadline to sign-on is Friday, March 31.*

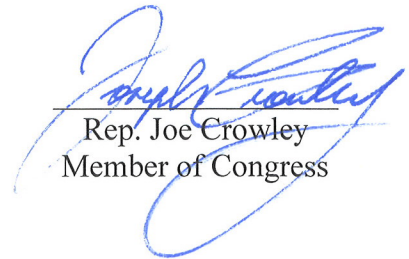
Sincerely,



Rep. David Price  
Member of Congress



Rep. Don Young  
Member of Congress



Rep. Joe Crowley  
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 4, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health  
and Human Services, Education,  
and Related Agencies  
2358-B Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health  
and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you draft your Fiscal Year 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill, we request that you include at least \$72.16 million for International Education and Foreign Language Studies for Fiscal Year 2017, \$65.1 million for HEA-Title VI and \$7.06 million for Fulbright-Hays 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.

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. Meanwhile, America's business and their clientele are diversifying and globalizing their operations, requiring language skills to access global markets.

The Commission on Language Learning of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, requested by Congress in 2014, released its final report on February 28, 2017. The data demonstrates that "by several measures, the United States has neglected languages in its educational curricula, its international strategies, and its domestic policies." It is clear that effective communication is the basis of international cooperation, and a strong national defense depends substantially on the ability of Americans to communicate and compete by knowing the languages and cultures of other countries.

Strong academic programs in critical foreign languages and intensive training in multi-disciplinary regional studies -- including socio-economic, cultural, security, and religious and business aspects, among others -- are vital to our national security and global economic competitiveness. But beyond the intensive curriculum development and related academic programming resulting from these programs, 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.

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. Unfortunately, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs have been weakened by recent budget reductions at the very time their importance has grown. Therefore, we strongly urge at least level funding for these programs to preserve this critical international and foreign language education infrastructure. 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 Price  
Member of Congress

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Rep. Don Young  
Member of Congress

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Rep. Joe Crowley  
Member of Congress