

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 6, 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, \$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

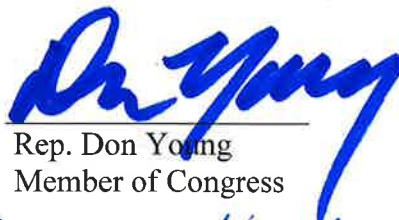
and community colleges, and strengthened ties between U. S. postsecondary institutions and international partners.

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.

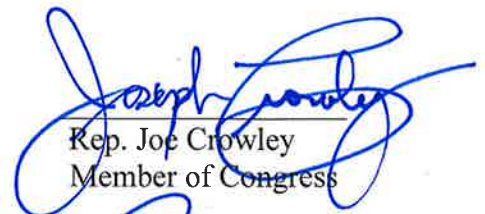
Sincerely,



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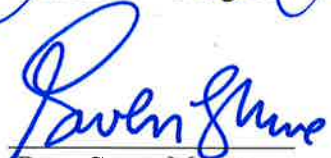
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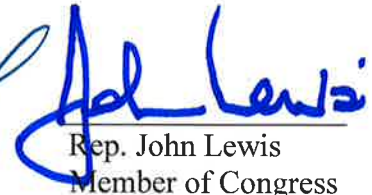
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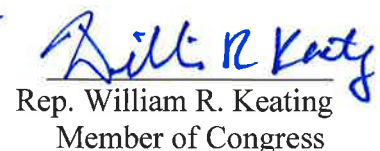
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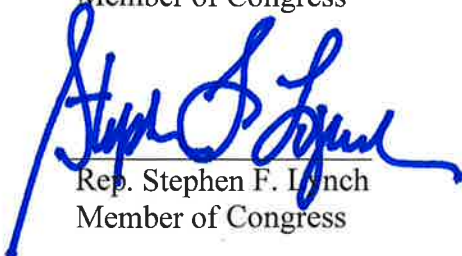
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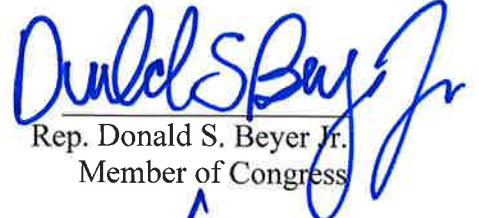
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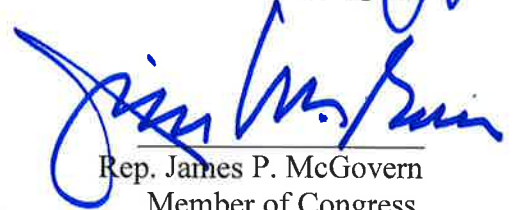
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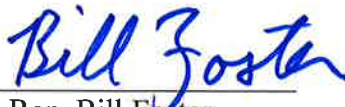
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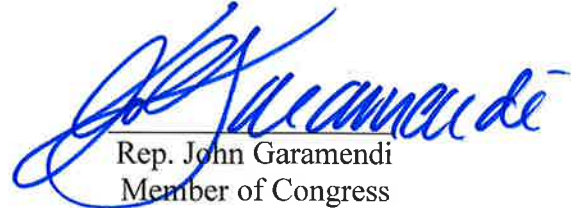
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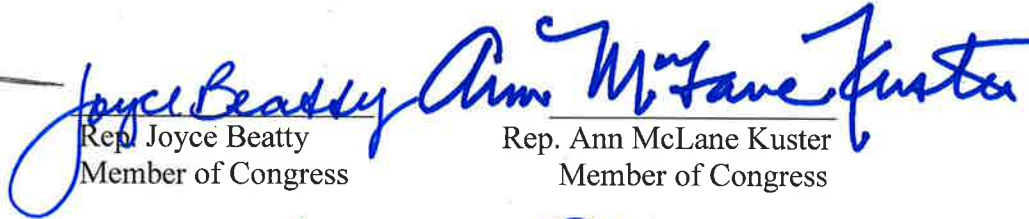
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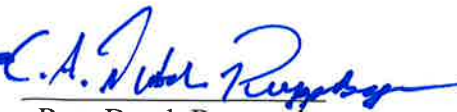
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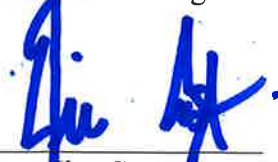
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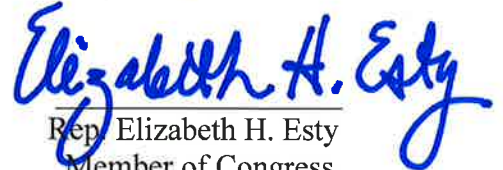
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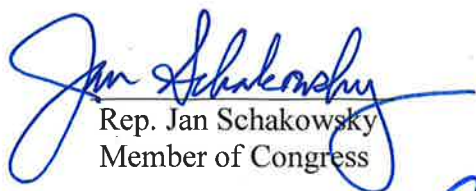
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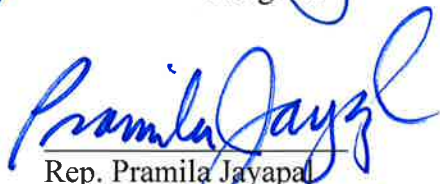


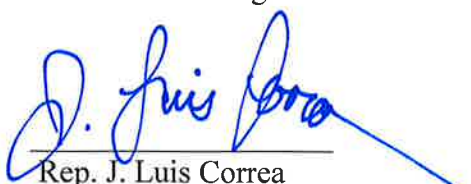
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