

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you draft your Fiscal Year 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations bill, we request that you include \$173.6 million in funding for International Education and Foreign Language Studies. This includes \$152.1 million for the Higher Education Act-Title VI and \$21.5 million for Fulbright-Hays programs.

Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs have helped our nation develop a strong foundation in international education, research, and world language studies, especially in the less-commonly taught languages that hold special strategic interest for our national defense and diplomatic presence around the world.

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. At the same time, an expanding range of sectors—including health, environment, food production, science, technology, engineering, energy, transportation, financial systems, and law enforcement—increasingly depend on their employees to possess international knowledge. Meanwhile, U.S. businesses and their clientele are diversifying and continuing to globalize their operations, requiring a workforce with language skills, cultural knowledge, and international experience to compete successfully in global markets.

At the request of Congress, the Commission on Language Learning of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences released a report in 2017 demonstrating that “by several measures, the United States has neglected languages in its educational curricula, its international strategies, and its domestic policies.” The Commission found that the U.S. educational system is not fully prepared to meet the rapidly growing demands for professionals and educators with area, regional, international, and world language knowledge.

Strong academic programs in critical world languages and intensive training in multi-disciplinary regional studies—including socio-economic, cultural, security, and religious and business aspects—are vital, and robust federal funding is essential to ensuring that students from all backgrounds can access these high-quality programs. Beyond the intensive curriculum development and related academic programming, 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.

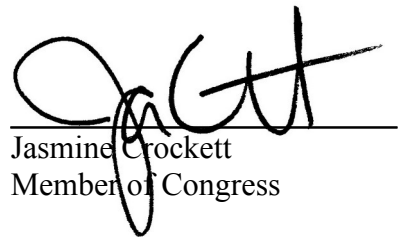
Effective communication is the basis of international cooperation. We know that the well-being of the United States depends substantially on its citizens' ability to communicate and compete by knowing the languages and cultures of other countries. In 2020, five international academies issued a joint statement titled "The Importance of Languages in Global Context." This international call to action emphasized the importance of increased investment in language education during the COVID-19 pandemic: clear and precise communication between nations is more important than ever in this global health crisis. A 2023 Center for Strategic and International Studies report on strengthening the Center for Disease Control's global mission emphasizes the need for international staff to undergo training in language and cultural skills to effectively confront emerging outbreaks.

The various programs funded under this account serve to strengthen our nation's educational infrastructure in areas where the need grows greater by the day. We are thankful for your commitment to these programs and the increased funding provided in the prior four fiscal years. We hope to build on this progress and provide \$173.6 million for the Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs, which would reverse a decade of sequestration and restore the programs to their Fiscal Year 2010 funding levels, adjusted for inflation. This is a small but vitally important investment in our nation's education, national security, and economic competitiveness.

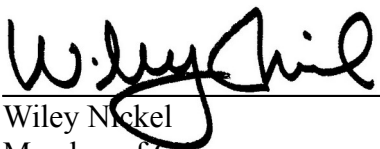
Sincerely,



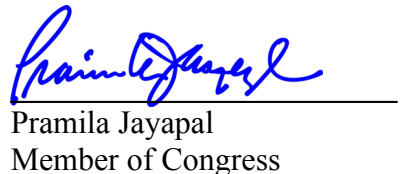
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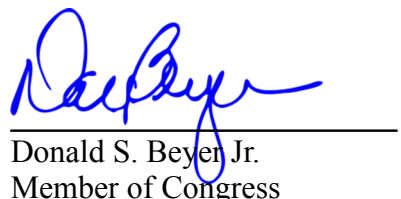
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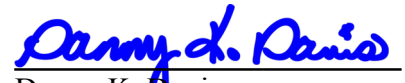

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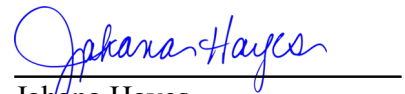

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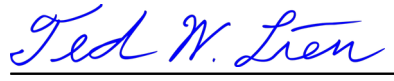

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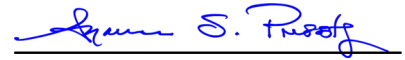

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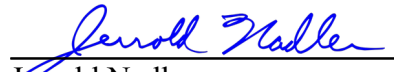

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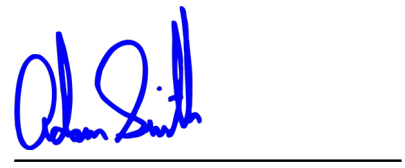

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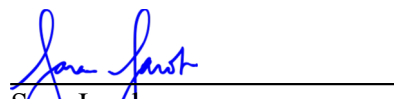

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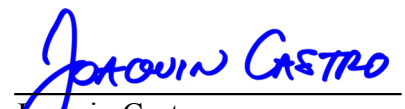

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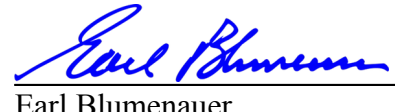
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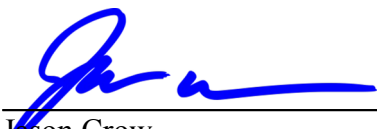
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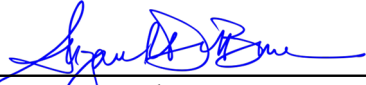
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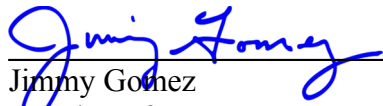
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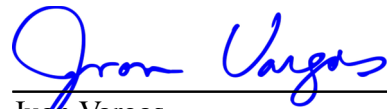
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



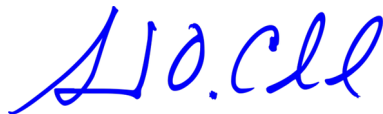
Stephen F. Lynch
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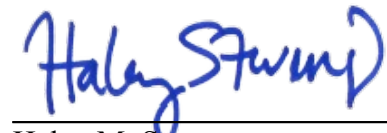
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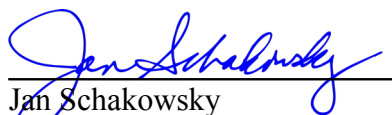
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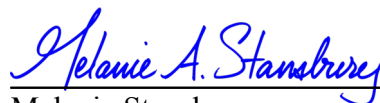
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Jim Costa
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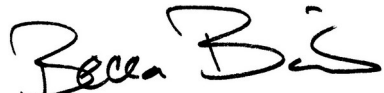
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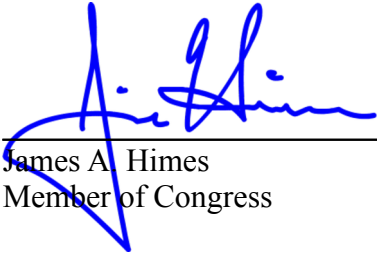
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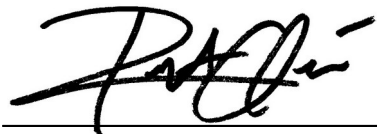
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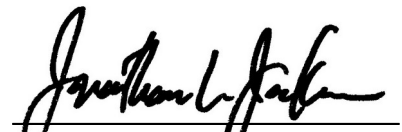
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Seth Magaziner
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Robert Garcia
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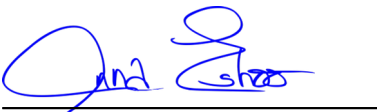
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Abigail Davis Spanberger
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