

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3302

May 23, 2025

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

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

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you draft your Fiscal Year 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we request that you include \$80 million and \$11 million respectively for the Higher Education Act-Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs, a 6% increase adjusting for combined FY 2024 and FY 2025 inflation. Despite the budget restrictions, this funding is crucial for the prosperity and safety of our nation and its citizens.

The longstanding bipartisan HEA-Title VI and 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.

As shortfalls of language and cultural skills continue to persist in the U.S. military, diplomatic, and intelligence communities, our nation's language deficit will threaten our priorities and missions around the globe. Simultaneously, U.S. businesses and their clientele are continuing to globalize their operations, requiring a workforce with language skills, cultural knowledge, and international experience to compete successfully in global markets. Unfortunately, the U.S. continues to lag behind other nations in the percentage of citizens who know a second language.

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.

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 FY 2020 through FY 2023. We hope to build on this progress and provide \$91 million for the Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs, which would continue reversing a decade of sequestration and help 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.

Unfortunately, the Administration laid off the entire staff for HEA-Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs in mid-March, causing much uncertainty about FY 2025 allocations and beyond. Although the functions of these programs have been assigned to staff in the Office of Postsecondary Education and the Office of Higher Education, their inexperience with the programs has also made implementation and administration difficult.

Again, we strongly urge the Appropriations Committee to protect and fund these critical programs.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

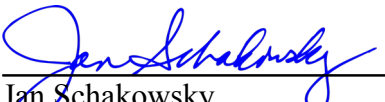
Sincerely,



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



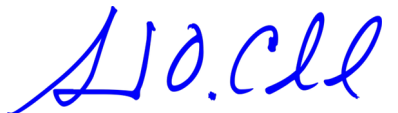
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



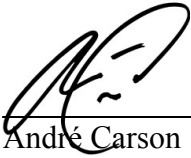
Suzanne Bonamici
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Julia Brownley
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Salud Carbajal
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André Carson
Member of Congress



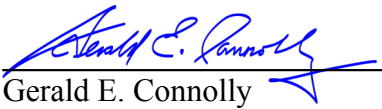
Joaquin Castro
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
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Gerald E. Connolly
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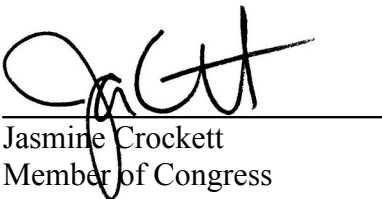
Jim Costa
Member of Congress



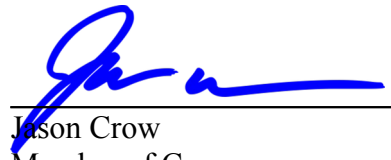
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



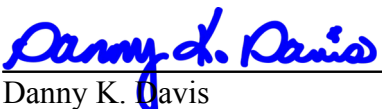
Angie Craig
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Jasmine Crockett
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Diana DeGette
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Suzan K. DelBene
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Debbie Dingell
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Dwight Evans
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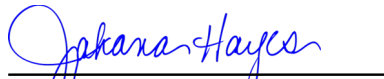
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Robert Garcia
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Dan Goldman
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Jahana Hayes
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Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



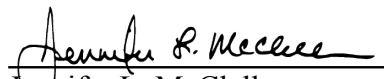
William R. Keating
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



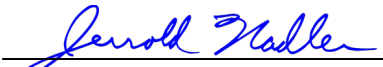
Stephen F. Lynch
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Member of Congress

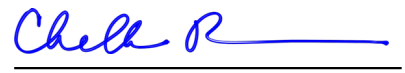

Jerrold Nadler
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Joe Neguse
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

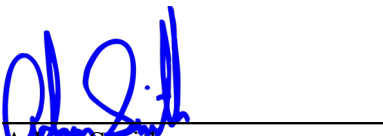

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

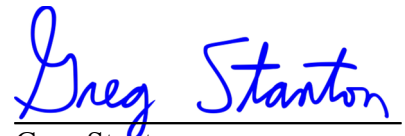

Scott H. Peters
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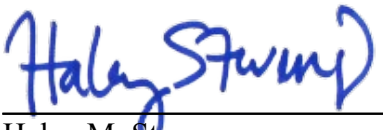

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

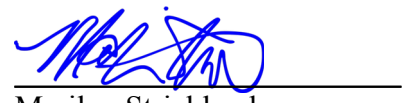

Jamie Raskin
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Greg Stanton
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Haley M. Stevens
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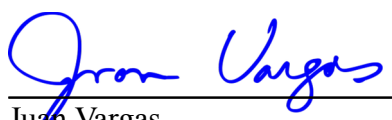

Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

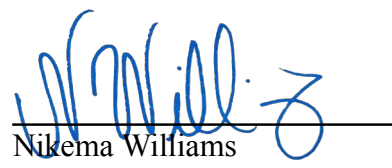

MARK TAKANO
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Dina Titus
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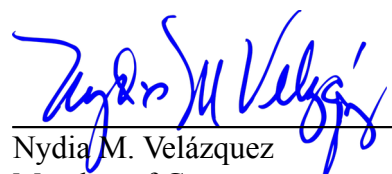

Jim Tokuda
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Lori Trahan
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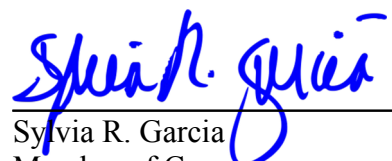

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress


Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

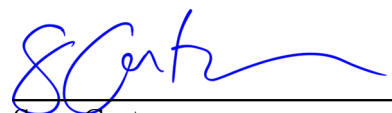

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

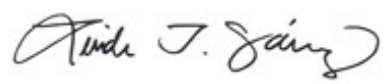

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress


Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress


Sylvia R. Garcia
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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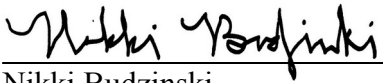

Sean Casten
Member of Congress


Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

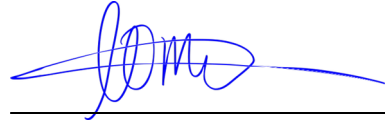

Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress


Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

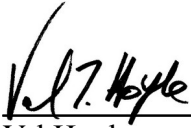

Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



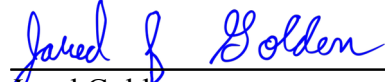
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Ilhan Omar
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Val Hoyle
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Jared Golden
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Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



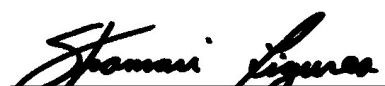
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



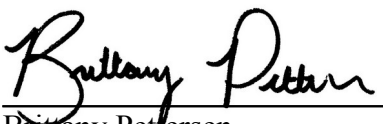
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



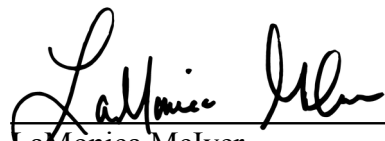
Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



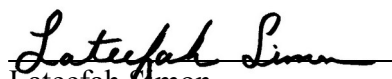
Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



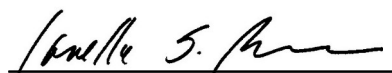
Brittany Petersen
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress

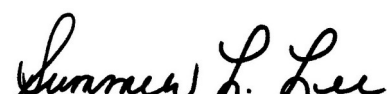

Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress

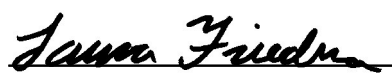

Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress

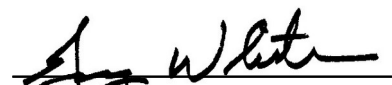

Janelle S. Bynum
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Ro Khanna
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Summer L. Lee
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George Whitesides
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Troy A. Carter, Sr.
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