



Public Policy Town Hall

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INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY COORDINATING COMMITTEE



A coalition of the APLU
Commission on International Initiatives

International Agriculture

- **Farm Bill**

“Support international collaboration that leverages resources and advances priority food and agricultural interests of the United States, such as— “(A) addressing emerging plant and animal diseases; 23 “(B) improving crop varieties and animal breeds; and “(C) developing safe, efficient, and nutritious food systems.”

- **Global Food Security Act**

- Second Anniversary Celebration
- Additional 5-year authorization

1 **TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTEN-**
2 **SION, AND RELATED MAT-**
3 **TERS**

4 **Subtitle A—National Agricultural**
5 **Research, Extension, and Teach-**
6 **ing Policy Act of 1977**

7 **SEC. 7101. PURPOSES OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EX-**
8 **TENSION, AND EDUCATION.**

9 Section 1402 of the National Agricultural Research,
10 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
11 3101) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” after
13 the semicolon;

14 (2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at
15 the end and inserting “; and”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(9) support international collaboration that
18 leverages resources and advances priority food and
19 agricultural interests of the United States, such
20 as—

21 “(A) addressing emerging plant and ani-
22 mal diseases;

23 “(B) improving crop varieties and animal
24 breeds; and

115TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2269

AN ACT

To reauthorize the Global Food Security Act of 2016 for 5 additional years.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Global Food Security Reauthorization Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **ASSISTANCE TO IMPLEMENT THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.**—Section 6(b) of the Global Food Security Act of 2016 ([22 U.S.C. 9305\(b\)](#)) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2017 and 2018” and inserting “fiscal years 2017 through 2023”.

(b) **EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM.**—Section 492(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 ([22 U.S.C. 2292a\(a\)](#)) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2017 and 2018” and inserting “fiscal years 2017 through 2023”.

SEC. 3. GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS.

Section 8(a) of the Global Food Security Act of 2016 ([22 U.S.C. 9307\(a\)](#)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “Not later than 1 year and 2 years” and inserting “During each of the first 7 years”; and
- (2) by striking “for 2017 and 2018” and inserting “at the end of the reporting period”.



June 26, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Minority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McCarthy, Minority Leader Pelosi, and Minority Whip Hoyer:

As the President of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and former Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), I write to express my strong support for passage of H.R. 5129, the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act (GFSA) of 2018. The bill would reauthorize the GFSA for an additional five years and redouble the federal government's commitment to a whole-of-government strategy to combat food insecurity and hunger worldwide.

Public research universities are committed to achieving global food security and have a deep appreciation for the responsibility they share in meeting the challenge. In fact, APLU recently published a report entitled, "[Challenge of Change](#)," to outline an academic, research, and leadership action plan for public research universities to meet global food needs by 2050. The university community is uniquely positioned, in cooperation with public and private partners across governments, businesses, nongovernmental and civil society organizations, multilateral institutions, and farmers, to address the world's greatest food security challenges through scientific research, teaching, and extension. It is critical for Congress to recommit strategic investments in food security, agricultural development and nutrition and take a truly comprehensive, holistic approach.

I know you are actively engaged in discussions about how to advance the Global Food Security Act to the President's desk, and want to share APLU's appreciation, support, and position as the process moves forward. Please do not hesitate to let me know how APLU can help or if you have any questions. I look forward to continuing to work with you towards enactment of the bipartisan Global Food Security Act.

Sincerely,

Peter McPherson
President
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Celebrate the Second Anniversary of the Global Food Security Act

July 25, 2018
5:00-7:00 p.m.

Rayburn House Office Building 2075

With Honorary Co-Hosts:
Representatives Chris Smith
and Betty McCollum

Please RSVP to: snitz@interaction.org

Cosponsoring Organizations



This is a widely attended event and has been organized to comply with ethics requirements



Tommy Trenchard (CC BY-NC 4.0)

International Development

- FY2018 results
 - Strong funding for IACC priorities
- FY2019 process
 - President's budget
 - Appropriations moving along well...so far

9 (d) FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOP-
10 MENT.—Of the funds appropriated by title III of this Act,
11 not less than \$1,000,600,000 shall be made available for
12 food security and agricultural development programs to
13 carry out the purposes of the Global Food Security Act
14 of 2016 (Public Law 114–195), of which not less than
15 \$315,960,000 shall be made available for the Bureau for
16 Food Security, USAID, including not less than
17 \$55,000,000 for the Feed the Future Innovation Labs:
18 *Provided*, That funds may be made available for a con-
19 tribution as authorized by section 3202 of the Food, Con-
20 servation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246),
21 as amended by section 3206 of the Agricultural Act of
22 2014 (Public Law 113–79).

(2) HIGHER EDUCATION.—Of the funds appropriated by title III of this Act, not less than \$235,000,000 shall be made available for assistance for higher education: *Provided*, That such funds may be made available notwithstanding any other provision of law that restricts assistance to foreign countries, and shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That of such amount, not less than \$35,000,000 shall be made available for human and institutional capacity building partnerships between higher education institutions in the United States and developing countries, of which not less than \$15,000,000 shall be for new partnerships which should be competed and awarded not later than one year after enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That not later than 45 days after enactment of this Act, the USAID Administrator shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations on the proposed uses of funds for such partnerships.

Title VI Programs & Study Abroad

- **Department of Education International Education Programs**
 - Title VI
 - Fulbright-Hays
- **Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Act**
- **Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act**

S. 2255, the Advancing International and Foreign Language Education Act

Introduced by Senator Todd Young and Senator Tammy Baldwin

Title VI is authorized by the Higher Education Act and provides resources to institutions of higher education to develop robust and innovative international and foreign language education programs. Preserving the Title VI program is vital to maintaining America's national security interests and ensuring global competitiveness.

The Title VI program is administered by the International and Foreign Language Education Office at the Department of Education. The purpose of Title VI programs is to:

- Respond to the national need for individuals with expertise in foreign languages and international studies by developing and implementing research and training programs.
- Contribute to providing a globally competent workforce in world areas important to our national security, economic competitiveness and global engagement.
- Expand foreign language and international education access to traditionally underserved students.
- Develop national capacity for teaching and research related to international studies.

The infrastructure developed and maintained by Title VI programs benefits college students across the country by providing opportunities for in-depth instruction in languages and regions of strategic importance. It also ensures that our K-12 systems have access to high-quality, diverse programming. Title VI provides the expert foundation critical to ensuring our international knowledge is replenished on an on-going basis to promote effective military and diplomatic engagement, economic growth, competitiveness and leadership prepared to address current and future global challenges.

The *Advancing International and Foreign Language Act* would do the following:

- Reauthorize Title VI of the Higher Education Act
- Extend six currently funded Title VI programs: National Resource Centers, Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships, Language Resource Centers, Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Programs, American Overseas Research Centers, and Centers for International Business Education and Research.
- Consolidate, streamline and update one funded and four unfunded programs into two reformed programs that are designed to better address 21st century needs through investment in language, culture, business and other areas for students, educators and employers.

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 601

To ensure that significantly more students graduate college with the international knowledge and experience essential for success in today's global economy through the establishment of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program in the Department of Education.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 9, 2017

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. REED, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BROWN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To ensure that significantly more students graduate college with the international knowledge and experience essential for success in today's global economy through the establishment of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program in the Department of Education.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Senator Paul Simon
5 Study Abroad Program Act of 2017".

Immigration Policy

Legislation

- DACA State of Play in the House and Senate

Regulations

- Departments of State & Homeland Security
 - a) Unlawful Presence
 - b) Visa Change for Chinese Students & Scholars
 - c) Changes to H-1B, H-4, OPT, STEM OPT

Litigation

- Travel Ban

June 11, 2018

Mr. L. Francis Cissna
Director
U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security
20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20529

Dear Director Cissna:

As leaders of associations representing two and four year, public and nonprofit, institutions of higher education, we write to express serious concern with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) policy memorandum dated May 10, 2018 concerning the “Accrual of Unlawful Presence for F, J, and M Nonimmigrants.” As written, the memo obscures and conflates the important distinction between “unlawful presence” – illegal presence in the United States – and “maintenance of status” – as defined under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). This proposed action would cause significant disruption and harm to educational and research programs at American colleges and universities. We want to work with USCIS to address any security concerns related to visa overstays and to ensure that visa policies and systems are efficient and effective so that our nation can continue to benefit from the presence of talented international students, scholars, and researchers.

As you are aware, there are very serious consequences if an individual is found unlawfully present in the United States – including a bar to reenter the country for a period of three or 10 years. Under the proposed policy, USCIS would rely on the information entered into the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) to determine if an F, M, or J visa holder violated their immigration status, rather than on an official determination by an immigration judge or the Department of Homeland Security. By equating “unlawful presence” with “failure to maintain status,” this new policy may pose very serious consequences for foreign students, the U.S. universities where they pursue higher education, and contribute to a highly problematic trend of sending the wrong messages about the U.S. as a welcoming country for international students.

Unlike all other visa holders, F, M and J nonimmigrants (foreign students and exchange visitors) are allowed to enter the United States for the duration of status– known as “Duration of Status” or “(D/S)” – rather than for a “date certain.” Under current agency policy promulgated by the 1997 “Virtue memo,”¹ a student or exchange visitor only begins to accrue “unlawful presence” after a USCIS adjudicator or immigration judge makes a formal finding that the individual violated their status. If implemented, the May 10, 2018 USCIS policy memorandum would fundamentally change the way the federal government calculates periods of unlawful presence for students beyond their Duration of Status.

There are many benign reasons why a student or exchange visitor might inadvertently fail to maintain status, including a change in practical training or employment status, medical leave, or a reduction in credit-bearing coursework. The SEVIS system attempts to capture information confirming compliance with some but not all situations that might be useful in identifying a failure to maintain status, including unintentional failures. Additionally, SEVIS is not a flawless system. It has been subject to automated and clerical errors including human error on the part of government agencies. These are not infrequent occurrences. The compliance and enforcement implications of USCIS’ new proposed policy are incredibly nuanced and complex, with very serious consequences for a violation. As a matter of good faith, fairness, and practicality, unlawful presence should only trigger if and when the student has been clearly notified of a potential violation. Moreover, unlawful presence policy, because of the severe

¹ 1997 Virtue Memo: https://www.nafsa.org/uploadedFiles/virtue_memo_on_interpreting.pdf?n=234



FEDERAL REGISTER

The Daily Journal of the United States Government



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PR Proposed Rule

Adjusting Program Fees for the Student and Exchange Visitor Program

A Proposed Rule by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on 07/17/2018



This document has a comment period that ends in 62 days. (09/17/2018)

SUBMIT A FORMAL COMMENT

PUBLISHED DOCUMENT

Start Printed Page 33762

AGENCY:

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION:

Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY:

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Printed version:

[PDF](#)

Publication Date:

07/17/2018

Agencies:

[U.s. Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#)

Dates:

Send comments by September 17, 2018.

Comments Close:

09/17/2018



C. Costs and Benefits

SEVP proposes to adjust fees to the amounts listed in Table 1.

Table 1—Current and Proposed Fee Amounts

Fee type	Current fee	Proposed fee	Incremental fee adjustment
I-901 F/M	\$200	\$350	\$150
I-901 J-Full	180	220	40
I-901 J-Partial	35	35	0
I-17 Initial Certification	1,700	3,000	1,300
I-17 Recertification	0	1,250	1,250
Site Visit—initial	655	655	0
Site Visit—new location	0	655	655
Appeal Fee	0	675	675

SEVP expects to have a total annual increase in fees of \$75.2 million in FY 2019 transferred from individuals and entities for the services they receive. Table 2 shows the summary of the total annual number of payments, incremental fee amounts, and total fees transferred in FY 2019. This increase in fees would allow SEVP to not only maintain its current level of service but also enhance SEVP's capability to support national security and counter immigration fraud through the continued development and implementation of critical system and programmatic enhancements. Enhancements to SEVIS, including the establishment of a student portal, will assist designated school officials (DSOs) in their regulatory obligation to provide accurate and timely information and will also rebalance this reporting requirement by providing students an automated means to update their information. Increased numbers of adjudication personnel



HEARINGS

Student Visa Integrity: Protecting Educational Opportunity and National Security

SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING

Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration

DATE: Wednesday, June 6, 2018
TIME: 02:30 PM
LOCATION: Dirksen Senate Office Building 226
PRESIDING: Senator Cornyn

**Joint Statement of the
American Council on Education, Association of American Universities,
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and the Council on Governmental
Relations**

“Student Visa Integrity: Protecting Educational Opportunity and National Security”

Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration
Dirksen Senate Office Building 226

June 6, 2018

The global events of recent years and evolving threats to the United States present new security challenges and require a careful reassessment of our nation’s security vulnerabilities, including those of our colleges and universities. As part of the government-university partnership, U.S. universities share a responsibility with the federal government to ensure that research conducted under their auspices contributes to our national defense and homeland security. Each must work to ensure that the fruits of this research are appropriately secured and protected from outside intrusion or theft by foreign actors and/or governments.

Together, our four associations represent all major U.S. research universities and higher education institutions. Our member institutions share a vested interest with the government in ensuring that intellectual property, proprietary information, trade secrets, sensitive data, and other classified and/or otherwise controlled government information developed or housed at our institutions is not susceptible to academic exfiltration, espionage, or exploitation. Accordingly, we welcome the opportunity to continue to work constructively and cooperatively with Congress and the major national security agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), the National Security Agency (NSA), the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, State, Defense, and Commerce, and the government research agencies to protect legitimate national security interests associated with scientific research conducted at universities.

We greatly appreciate past efforts by the federal government, such as programs launched by the U.S. Departments of Commerce and State, the FBI, and other security agencies, to engage with the higher education community and to forge closer relationships between the academic and security communities both at the local and national levels. The higher education community values the increased training and outreach efforts undertaken by the Commerce Department’s Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) to help ensure understanding of and compliance with export control laws. We also appreciate other collaborative initiatives with our associations, such as the FBI’s Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate Chemical-Biological Safety Program.

The Department of Homeland Security’s Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council (HSAAC) has provided another very useful forum to discuss such issues; we urge that HSAAC continue its work as the Council is an excellent assembly for further conversations and deliberations about the very types of security issues raised at today’s hearing.



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Subcommittee on Oversight and Subcommittee on Research and Technology Hearing: Scholars or Spies: Foreign Plots Targeting America's Research and Development

Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 - 10:00am

Location: 2318 Rayburn House Office Building

Subcommittees: Subcommittee on Research and Technology (115th Congress)
Subcommittee on Oversight (115th Congress)

Hearing: Scholars or Spies: Foreign Plots Targeting Ame...





**Joint Statement of the
American Council on Education, Association of American Universities,
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and the Council on Governmental Relations**

“Scholars or Spies: Foreign Plots Targeting America’s Research and Development”

House Science, Space, and Technology Committee Subcommittee on Oversight and
Subcommittee on Research and Technology Hearing

2318 Rayburn House Office Building

April 11, 2018

The global events of recent years and evolving threats to the United States present new security challenges and require a careful reassessment of our nation’s security vulnerabilities, including those of our colleges and universities. As part of the government-university partnership, U.S. universities share a responsibility with the federal government to ensure that research conducted under their auspices contributes to our national defense and homeland security. Each must work to ensure that the fruits of this research are appropriately secured and protected from outside intrusion or theft by foreign actors and/or governments.

Together, our four associations represent all major U.S. research universities and higher education institutions. Our member research universities share a vested interest with the government in ensuring that intellectual property, proprietary information, trade secrets, sensitive data, and other classified and/or otherwise controlled government information developed or housed at our institutions is not susceptible to academic exfiltration, espionage, or exploitation. Accordingly, we welcome the opportunity to continue to work constructively and cooperatively with Congress and the major national security agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the National Security Agency (NSA), and the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, State, Defense, Commerce and government research agencies to protect legitimate national security interests associated with scientific research conducted at universities.

We greatly appreciate past efforts by the federal government, such as programs launched by the U.S. Departments of Commerce and State, the FBI, and other security agencies, to engage with the higher education community and to forge closer relationships between the academic and security communities both at the local and national levels. The higher education community values the increased training and outreach efforts undertaken by the Commerce Department’s [Bureau of Industry and Security \(BIS\)](#) to help ensure understanding of and compliance with export control laws. We also appreciate other collaborative initiatives with our associations, such as the FBI’s [Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorates Chemical-Biological Safety Program](#).

The Department of Homeland Security’s [Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council \(HSAAC\)](#) provides another very useful forum to discuss such issues; we urge that HSAAC



You are invited to a luncheon briefing:

“Understanding Employment-Based Green Cards”

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

2321 Rayburn House Office Building

Lunch will be provided

Panelists include:

Chuck Olcese, Director of International Student Services, University of Kansas

Pat Duffy, Director, Global Labor Relations and Workforce Policy, Intel

Mayank Thakkar, Global Life Sciences Solutions Architect, Amazon Web Services





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Mayank Thakkar, Global Life Sciences Solutions Architect, Amazon Web Services



Accused Russian Agent Entered U.S. on Student Visa

By [Elizabeth Redden](#) // July 17, 2018

0 COMMENTS 

A Russian national who was [charged Monday](#) with conspiracy to act as an agent of Russia without registering as a foreign agent entered the U.S. in 2016 on a student visa.

Maria Butina is accused of working under the direction of a high-level official in the Russian government to develop relations with American politicians to establish “back-channel” lines of communication that could be used to advance Russia’s interests. [An affidavit](#) in support of the criminal complaint also says that Butina and the official sought to advance Russia’s interests “by establishing relationships with American political organizations,” including an unidentified gun rights organization.

[The Washington Post reported](#) that the descriptions in court papers match published reports about Butina’s interactions with the National Rifle Association. The *Post* reported that Butina, who is 29 years old, recently earned a graduate degree from [American University](#).

The *Post* quoted Butina’s lawyer, Robert Neil Driscoll, who denied the allegations that she acted as a foreign agent and said she was simply networking to develop relationships with Americans. Driscoll said that Butina testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee in a closed session earlier this year and offered to cooperate with the government.



Public Policy Town Hall

Hanan Saab

Assistant Director for International Issues,
Congressional & Governmental Affairs

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