

# Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

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February 15, 2011

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Members and Staff of the House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations

FROM: ASSOCIATION FOR SLAVIC, EAST EUROPEAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES

RE: FY 2011 and FY 2012 Funding for The Higher Education Act, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays 102(b)(6)

As the new Congress deliberates federal budget for FY 2011Continuation and FY 2012, members of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies urge the subcommittee to consider the important federal role played by the Higher Education Act, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays 102(b)(6), in supporting our nation's long-term national security, global leadership and economic competitiveness capabilities. Successful U.S. engagement in these areas, at home or abroad, relies on Americans with global competence.

**Title VI and Fulbright-Hay serve as our nation's foundational programs for building U.S. global competence.** Grants develop and support college and university programs that produce U.S. expertise on the foreign languages and business, economic, political, social, cultural and regional affairs of other countries and world areas. **Funded at \$125.881 million in FY 2010, these programs represent less than 0.2 percent of the U.S. Department of Education's discretionary budget.** A cost-effective investment, this federal-university partnership stimulates substantial additional funding by universities and foundations.

Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs are the federal government's most comprehensive programs supporting the development of national capacity in international and foreign language education, utilized by education, government and business sectors. Programs support activities to improve our capabilities throughout the educational pipeline, from K-12 outreach through graduate education and advanced research. Instruction is provided in over 130 languages and 10 world areas, with emphasis on the less commonly-taught, strategic languages, such as Russian, Arabic, Turkish, Pashto, Hindi and Chinese.

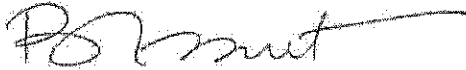
**The nation's success in the 21st century depends on Americans with global competence,** including foreign language skills and the ability to understand and function in different cultural environments. **However, the number of Americans with such**

**expertise.** One need only look at any day's headlines to appreciate our need to engage more broadly and effectively with China, India, Russia, and the Muslim world. **Weakening or eliminating this carefully designed "program pipeline" would reduce our nation's capacity to do so, and have an adverse long-term impact on our national security and economic competitiveness.**

We understand the tremendous pressures on the federal budget and the difficult decisions Congress faces on FY 2011 and 2012 spending. In making these tough choices, we believe Congress should take into consideration **the federal-higher education partnership** that ensures our nation's human resource capacity and knowledge critical for successful U.S. global engagement in an increasingly complex and challenging world. The Title VI/FH programs have been essential in supporting generations of American experts for the US government, business and education.

Thank you for considering our views. We believe these programs to be an effective and efficient federal investment toward strengthening our nation's security and economic well being in this time of complex global challenges.

Sincerely,



Bruce Grant  
President, Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies  
Professor, New York University



Lynda Park  
Executive Director, Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies