

COALITION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Promoting U.S. Global Competence

March 7, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert C. “Bobby” Scott
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear House and Senate Leaders, Chairs and Ranking Members,

As the House and Senate prepare to conference the *United States Innovation and Competition Act (USICA) of 2021 and the America COMPETES Act of 2022*, comprehensive legislation to address 21st century global security and economic challenges, **the undersigned organizations write to express our deep gratitude for the inclusion in both bills of the “Reauthorization of International Education Programs Under Title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965.”**

While we appreciate that both bills include core provisions for HEA-Title VI reauthorization, we continue to strongly support, and respectfully urge the conferees to adopt, the bipartisan S. 1260 USICA version of the Title VI reauthorization, as it contains all the provisions important to include in the final bill. The Senate version most closely mirrors the bipartisan *Advancing International and Foreign Language Education Act* introduced in each of the 115th, 116th and 117th Congresses and broadly supported by the U.S. international higher education community.

Since the National Defense Education Act of 1958, Title VI continues to be a key federal-university partnership in the nation's strategy for ensuring U.S. security, global competitiveness, and deep understanding of foreign languages and cultures. The USICA and COMPETE Act bills reauthorize the key Title VI foundational programs that address the nation's critical and expanding needs for expertise in foreign languages, world regions and international business, to be available whenever an international or global crisis erupts, such as the current Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Additionally, the legislation's programmatic enhancements will provide students with innovative opportunities to obtain the international experience and skills in growing demand across a wide range of professional and technical fields impacting our global engagement, security and competitiveness. New provisions also incentivize research and innovation in U.S. international education capacity, organization and delivery to meet 21st century challenges, as well as expand international and foreign language education to traditionally underserved students and institutions.

To achieve these goals, the bill's authorization of appropriations addresses the urgent need in FY 2022 and beyond to restore the federal investment in Title VI after severe appropriations reductions in FY 2011, followed by a decade of flat funding. It is our hope that given expanding global threats and challenges, Congress will provide the restorative funding support that enables robust implementation of the reauthorization and essential outcomes moving forward.

Once again, we heartily applaud the Congress for enhancing and reinvesting in this important partnership within legislation that strengthens our global engagement and competitiveness overall.

Thank you for your continued support for these programs and consideration of our request.

Submitted by the following 32 organizations:

African Studies Association
Alliance for International Exchange
American Association of Community Colleges
American Council of Learned Societies
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
American Councils for International Education
American Historical Association
American Political Science Association
American Society for Engineering Education
Association for Asian Studies
Association for International Business Education and Research
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Association of International Education Administrators
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Research Libraries
Center for Global Education at Asia Society
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council of American Overseas Research Centers
Council of Directors of National Resource Centers
Council of Graduate Schools

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The Forum on Education Abroad

Joint National Committee for Languages

Latin American Studies Association

Middle East Studies Association

Modern Language Association

NAFSA: Association of International Educators

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

National Coalition for History

National Council for Languages and International Studies

National Humanities Alliance

North American Small Business International Trade Educators Association

Social Science Research Council

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