

# Aim Higher

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Access | Affordability | Completion

## Advancing International and Foreign Language Education Act

According to the [National Research Council](#), a pervasive lack of knowledge about foreign cultures and foreign languages in the United States threatens the security of our country, and our ability to compete in the global economy. A [policy research conference](#) sponsored by the Coalition for International Education found that [many professional sectors](#) and all [defense, intelligence, and diplomatic agencies](#), have an established and growing need for Americans with international knowledge, advanced foreign language skills, and cultural awareness.

The [lack of supply](#) for these in-demand positions also leads to a lack of instructional leaders and teachers who can adequately provide a robust international education experience for undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students. In order to address these issues, the United States invests in several domestic and international language-, cultural-, and business-focused programs in Title VI of the Higher Education Act.

The Advancing International and Foreign Language Education Act continues our nation's investment in language, cultural, and regional education and expertise so that we can compete economically and maintain robust defense, intelligence, and diplomatic communities. The bill would:

- Fund Title VI programs at \$125 million in FY18 and index to inflation for each successive fiscal year;
- Extend authorization of six currently funded 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;
- Modernize and align five existing programs into two new programs that address the 21<sup>st</sup> century needs for educational opportunities that promote language, cultural, and business and other professional competencies for students, teachers, and employers; and
- Codify Obama Administration grant process that allows the Secretary of Education to give priority to qualified minority-serving institutions or institutions of higher education that apply for grants and propose significant and sustained collaboration with a minority-serving institution.