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Date

The Honorable < >
United States Senate/House of Representatives
Fax #:

Dear Senator/Representative < >:

I write to urge you to support the highest possible level of funding for State Department educational and cultural exchange programs. International exchange programs are not only a strategic security investment for the United States as a whole, but also bring significant economic benefit to <your state/district>.

Suggested talking points for body of letter (*use the points that work best for you—these are suggestions and there's no need to address them all*):

- **Economic impact of exchange programs:** Business and academic partnerships forged, grants or projects initiated, travel/tourism income, etc.
- **Dynamism of exchange programs:** Stress the relevance of exchanges in today's global world, and how the programs are able to shift and improve with the times to provide relevant, substantive experiences for participants
- **Long-term impact of exchange programs:** The long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationships exchanges foster between Americans and counterparts in countries around the globe cannot be overstated (provide an example of a particularly important or successful connection for your district/state)
- **Your most compelling anecdote about the effectiveness of exchanges in your district/state.** Try to be specific. Focus less on stories of general enrichment, and more on specific outcomes: e.g., a child who studied or worked abroad as a result of meeting an exchange participant; a business or academic partnership that developed as a result of a program; etc.

International exchange programs provide a proven and effective way for the United States to create worldwide partnerships, which are of vital importance to our national security. In addition, through money spent locally by visiting foreign participants, as well as through business and academic partnerships forged, exchange programs provide a significant economic boost to communities around the United States, including our own.

I appreciate this opportunity to remind you of the crucial importance of State Department international exchange programs and ask you to support the highest possible level of funding for them. Thank you for your support in promoting this critical component of U.S. public diplomacy.

Sincerely,