

HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
4TH DISTRICT, GEORGIA

COMMITTEES:

JUDICIARY

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SENIOR WHIP

REGION VIII WHIP

**Congress of the
United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1004**

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN
COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AND
THE INTERNET

ANTITRUST, COMMERCIAL, AND
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

AVIATION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC
BUILDINGS, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: U.S. Department of State educational and cultural exchange programs for Fiscal Year 2020

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Rogers:

Thank you for your continued support of U.S. Department of State educational and cultural exchange programs, which are a proven and cost-effective way for the United States to remain internationally competitive, develop American leaders, engage current and future international leaders, and promote American values. These programs support global engagement that is critical to our country's prosperity and security. We respectfully request that you enable the continued success of these vital programs and appropriate the highest possible funding level for U.S. Department of State educational and cultural exchange programs in Fiscal Year 2020.

Through professional, academic, cultural, and athletic exchanges, these programs reach emerging leaders, entrepreneurs, youth, students, educators, and athletes in the United States and more than 160 countries around the world, dramatically increasing America's global reach. Support from Congress allows the State Department to strategically align its programs with key U.S. foreign policy interests and to facilitate and oversee exchange experiences for more than 355,000 American and international exchange participants, including:

- Bringing emerging and future leaders – many of them from countries key to U.S. foreign policy interests – to the U.S. on programs like the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program, and the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Program;
- Continuing to engage students and scholars through the renowned Fulbright Program;
- Engaging and training young professionals through programs such as the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX);
- Expanding opportunities for young Americans to study and research abroad;
- Broadening engagement with youth, women and girls, as well as program alumni; and

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2240 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE (202) 225-1605
FAX (202) 226-0631

DECATUR OFFICE
5240 SNAPPINGER PARK DRIVE, SUITE 140
DECATUR, GA 30035
PHONE (770) 987-2291
FAX (770) 987-8721

- **Expanding the virtual exchanges portfolio, allowing for a strong public diplomacy impact on a growing audience worldwide.**

Exchanges are imperative for U.S. national security

State Department exchange programs allow the U.S. to engage with a diverse audience and emerging leaders from around the world, many of them from countries key to our national security interests. Exchanges are a key instrument in the U.S. foreign policy toolbox and essential to strengthening U.S. global leadership, while building respect and a web of partnerships based on shared interests and mutual ties around the world.

American students studying abroad through State Department exchange programs are ambassadors of the next generation of American leaders, highlighting our most promising young people and promoting American values around the world. State Department evaluations repeatedly show that international exchange participants who visit the United States complete their programs with a better impression of our country, the American people, and our values. U.S. ambassadors around the world consistently rank exchange programs among the most useful catalysts for long-term political change and mutual understanding.

Exchanges benefit Americans and help keep America competitive

State Department exchanges provide opportunities for Americans – as exchange participants and as hosts – to build international experience and connections, and gain cross-cultural skills necessary for success in the global marketplace, including expertise in languages critical to business and national security and the establishment of key relationships around the world. State Department exchanges facilitate the development of a substantial cohort of Americans who have the skills, knowledge, and contacts to navigate effectively across cultures and economies.

Exchanges are a cost-effective investment that brings resources to U.S. communities

State Department exchange programs are a cost-effective investment that not only enhances America's long-term competitiveness but also provides significant and immediate economic impact in communities across the country. Most of the State Department exchanges budget is spent either on Americans, American businesses and organizations, or in the United States. International students studying at our colleges and universities during the 2017-2018 academic year contributed \$39 billion to the U.S. economy and supported 455,622 jobs across the country, according to NAFSA: Association of International Educators. They do business with American small businesses, airlines, hotels, and nongovernmental organizations in local communities, and their presence at our colleges and universities supports academic institutions throughout the country.

We respectfully request that you make a smart and effective investment in our country's foreign policy, as well as local communities across the United States, by funding U.S. Department of State educational and cultural exchange programs at the highest possible funding level in Fiscal Year 2020.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



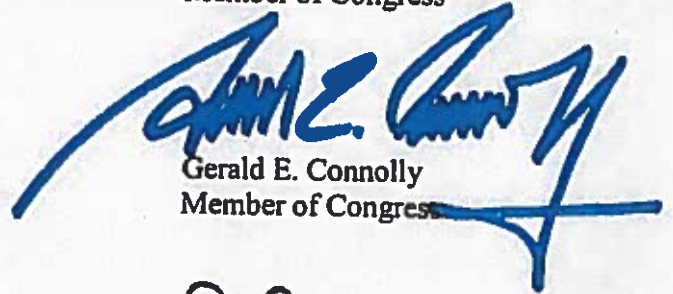
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



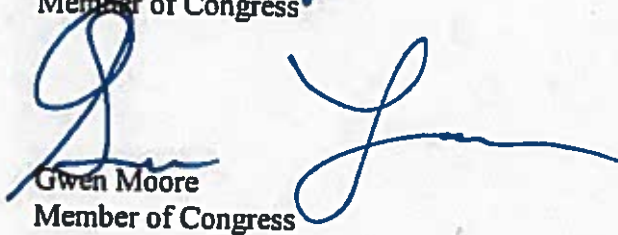
Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress




Joe Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress


Diana DeGette
Member of Congress


Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress


Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress


Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress


Brian Higgins
Member of Congress


Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

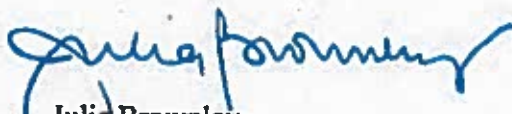

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress


Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Marc Veasey
Member of Congress


Julia Brownley
Member of Congress


Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress


Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress


Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress


David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress


Don Young
Member of Congress


Denny Heck
Member of Congress


Sanford D. Bishop
Member of Congress



Robyn L. Kelly
Member of Congress

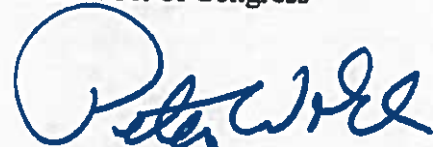

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress


Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress


Dina Titus
Member of Congress


Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress


Peter Welch
Member of Congress


Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress


Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress


Juan Vargas
Member of Congress


Adam Smith
Member of Congress


Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Harley Rouda
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress

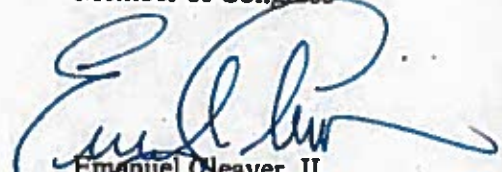

John Sarbanes
Member of Congress


Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress


Joe Courtney
Member of Congress


Rick Larsen
Member of Congress


Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress


William R. Keating
Member of Congress


Judy Chu
Member of Congress


Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Greg Stanton
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

F. Leon Vela
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

Andy Levin
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester

Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Katie Hill

Katie Hill
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin

Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb

Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

Darren Soto

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragan

Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



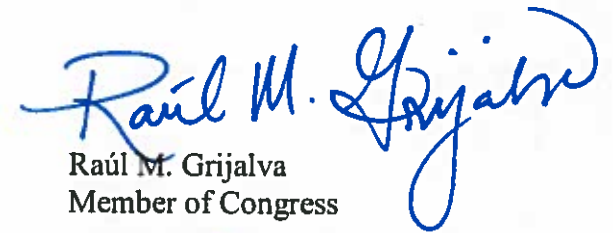
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress



Jenniffer Gonzalez Colón
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress