



Joint National Committee for Languages
National Council for Languages and International Studies

MONTHLY UPDATE

September 1, 2017

JNCL-NCLIS extends its sympathy and concern to all of the people of Texas and Louisiana affected by Hurricane Harvey, and we hope that all of our colleagues in the area find safe ground.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues,

Now's the time to take action for languages!

We're seven months into the Trump Administration, and our opportunities and challenges are coming into focus. The next month will require everyone's efforts, whether through emails and calls to Capitol Hill or through organizational support for our work.

If we look at where we were at this time a year ago, we're at just about the same point in terms of funding for our programs, and we're actually in better shape in terms of language industry issues on Capitol Hill (more on that below). Sometimes it may not feel that we're making progress, and there are areas of real concern, but the five years of engagement by you and your organizations, and the quality and timeliness of the information we provide to the Hill and the Executive Branch, have made a real difference. JNCL-NCLIS, and its 135 member organizations, are the resource for ground truth on language and how it impacts national security, economic growth, and education in the US.

As we look at the next month - appropriations, the National Defense Authorization Act, visa issues - and as we look beyond, into the fall and next year, your support is ever more vital. The resources your organizations provide make our collective work possible. The messages you send, and your individual and organizational participation in Language Advocacy Days, form the foundation of our advocacy. Just today, our Managing Policy Analyst, Maria Pulcini, met with staff in Senator Blunt's office, who asked about teacher training, because advocates of the Foreign Language Association of Missouri (FLAM) sent messages from our joint action alert (with ACTFL) on funding for professional development. While FLAM deserve thanks for their follow-up, this happens all the time on the Hill - whether it's staff in California offices asking about the language industry, or in New Hampshire wanting more information about language testing and online learning, or in Hawai'i asking about the preservation of Native languages, or Small Business Committee staff asking about the impact of low cost bidding on the language missions of Federal agencies - our work rests on your work, the information and resources you provide, and your engagement.

To that end, I ask you to do two things: first, make sure your organization is current on its dues. Second, please make sure you've responded to, and shared, our recent action alerts on Title II. There will be more of these in coming weeks.

With Best Wishes,

Bill Rivers

MESSAGE FROM THE POLICY ANALYST

Dear Colleagues,

The fall Congressional calendar promises to be a busy one, and we are hard at work devising strategies to build coalitions of supporters for our many programs. When the Congress returns next week, we will be visiting with offices to advocate full funding for Fulbright-Hays, which the House has proposed to eliminate, the State Department's exchange programs in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs as well as the J-1, H-1B, SIV Visa programs, which have all come under threat by the Administration. Read more below about how to take action.

On the Language Industry side of our work, we're actively working with Congressional offices on the hosting of an event to inform Congress of the challenges faced by the industry with respect to Department of Labor regulations and federal contracting practices. To help us inform Congress of these issues, JNCL-NCLIS will conduct an advocacy workshop in tandem with the American Translators Association conference in Washington, DC on October 25. Translators, interpreters, business owners, and others attending the conference will meet with their Congressional delegations to discuss how these issues impact the industry. Among the concerns advocates will address are inconsistencies in the Department of Labor industry census that determines the prevailing wage rates for translators and interpreters, abuses of the Service Contracting Act that allow translation and interpreting services to be compensated far below the industry average, and the misuse of machine translation as a substitute for human translation. Read more about [T&I Advocacy Day](#) and register to join us on Capitol Hill!

In other recent activity, JNCL-NCLIS hosted a Workshop for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation on Global Competencies and Economic Integration at the Middlebury Institute for International Studies at Monterey, California, on August 7-9, 2017. The Workshop was attended by leadership from within APEC, delegates from nine APEC economies representing ministries of education, budget/planning, and others, and leadership from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of International Affairs, the Aspen Institute, and American Councils Research Center. JNCL-NCLIS extends its gratitude to MIIS for hosting the event.



The Workshop will be summarized in a report to APEC, which is forthcoming and will be made available on the project website: www.apecglobalcompetencies.com. Check out the site for resources and infographics about the role played by global competencies across APEC economies, and stay tuned for additions to the site as the project continues.

Finally, registration for [Language Advocacy Day 2018](#) will open on **September 18!** Be on the lookout for the announcement to take advantage of early bird registration rates. As the event continues to grow each year, so too does our collective voice, and we hope you are able to join us on February 15-16, 2018!

Wishing a happy Labor Day to all!

Maria Pulcini
Managing Policy Analyst

ACTION CENTER

Update Title VI/Fulbright-Hays Advocacy

The House of Representatives has proposed to eliminate the Fulbright-Hays programs in the Department of Education, consistent with the President's Budget Request. The House may take up a vote on an FY18 Omnibus bill to include funding for the Department of Education, and there are currently two amendments related to Title VI/Fulbright-Hays that the House Rules Committee must either approve or reject.

The first amendment, filed by Rep. Price (D-NC-4), [Division F Amdt #49](#) seeks to restore full funding to Fulbright-Hays. Rep. Price had also introduced the amendment in subcommittee markup, but it was defeated alongside all other amendments related to program funding. The second amendment related to Fulbright-Hays was filed by Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI-6), [Division F Amdt #153](#), and seeks to prohibit funding for both Fulbright-Hays

Title VI/Fulbright-Hays are critical to our national security and economic growth, and provide the foundation of expertise and research on language that underlies our language missions across federal agencies. Rep. Grothman's amendment would do irreparable damage to our language and culture capacity.

Action required: If you, or your organization, are located in the district of a member of the [House Rules Committee](#), please contact the Member's office by phone, email, or website contact form urging approval of Rep. Price's amendment, and rejection of Rep. Grothman's amendment. Refer to the amendments by the numbers provided above.

Update on Title II-A Advocacy

The House of Representatives has proposed elimination of Title II, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act, which provides funds for supporting effective instruction and for recruiting, training, and retaining high quality teachers and school leaders. JNCL-NCLIS is advocating for full funding for the program alongside a coalition of national education organizations. Stay updated on these efforts by following our advocacy alerts, and the [Title II Advocacy webpage](#).

Update on J-1 Visa Program Advocacy

The Trump administration has proposed to implement restrictions on the J-1 visa program in the Department of State. This comes as a follow-on to the administration's "Buy American, Hire American" Executive Order, which originally targeted only H-1B visas.

The J-1 visa program is a vitally important tool of citizen diplomacy, allowing for hundreds of thousands of foreign workers to participate in work-based exchanges during peak seasons, as well as educational exchanges. The J-1 visa program has also been instrumental in placing international teachers and paraprofessionals in world language classrooms across the country. As a whole, these exchange programs benefit local employers and communities and strengthen our relations with other nations.

Action required: The Alliance for International Exchange has put together an action alert for you to [write Congress and voice opposition to restrictions on the J-1 visa program](#).

READER'S CHOICE

The top language news in August 2017, according to subscribers of our weekly NewsBrief.

[Teacher shortages affecting every state as 2017-18 school year begins](#)

The Washington Post, 8/28/2017

The 2017-18 school year has started in many places across the country, and federal data shows that every state is dealing with shortages of teachers in key subject areas. Some are having trouble finding substitute teachers, too. The annual nationwide listing of areas with teacher shortages, compiled by the U.S. Education Department, shows many districts struggling to fill positions in subjects such as math, the traditional sciences, foreign language and special education, but also in reading and English language arts, history, art, music, elementary education, middle school education, career and technical education, health, and computer science. That is not an exhaustive list.

[Read more.](#)

['Sesame Street' turns 'Despacito' into a bilingual ode to rubber ducks](#)

Huffington Post, 8/23/17

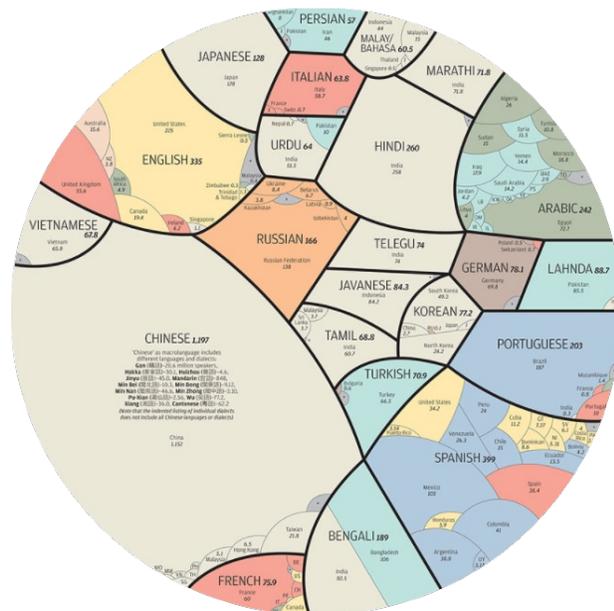
"Despacito" has finally arrived at the place where the air is sweet. On Monday, "Sesame Street" posted a parody of Luis Fonsi's mega hit.

In the video, Ernie and Rosita sing about their love of el patito in both English and Spanish. [Read more.](#)



Beyond the desire to pass one's native language on to a new generation, there are other reasons to bring up bilingual children. I spoke to Ellen Bialystok, a professor of psychology at York University in Toronto. Her groundbreaking research has shown that compared to children who speak only one language, bilingual children are better at executive-function skills like focusing, multitasking, and weeding out unnecessary information. But bringing up a bilingual child is hard-even more so due to a number of myths about language acquisition. [Read more.](#)

[Chart: The world's most spoken languages and their millions of native speakers](#)
Design Taxi, 7/31/2017



If you are thinking about learning a new language, you would probably have thought about how useful it would be to know-and a key determinant of that would be the number of people speaking it.

Alberto Lucas López, senior graphics editor at National Geographic, has created a fascinating pie chart that illustrates proportionately the world's 23 most spoken languages-for instance, Chinese took up the greatest chunk on the chart, with 1,197,000,000 native speakers. [Read more.](#)

SAVE THE DATE: 2018 LANGUAGE ADVOCACY DAY

Language Advocacy Day
&
JNCL-NCLIS Delegate Assembly

February 15-16, 2018
Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill

Registration will open September 18.

LEGISLATIVE WATCH - 115th CONGRESS

[World Language Advancement and Readiness Act](#)

The bill was introduced in the House on February 28, 2017 and would establish a competitive grant program to support world language education in K-12 schools. The program would be administered by the Secretary of Defense in consultation with the Secretary of Education and the Director of National Intelligence, and would provide three-year grants to LEAs to establish, expand, or improve world language programs. The bill has been referred to the House Armed Services Committee and the House Education and Workforce Committee. [Track the bill.](#)

[Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act](#)

The bill was introduced in the Senate on February 1, 2017 and in the House on February 16, 2017 and would reauthorize through FY2022 both Esther Martinez grant programs administered by the Administration for Native Americans at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) - the Native American Languages Preservation and Maintenance (P&M) grant program and the Esther Martinez Initiative (EMI) grant program. It

also decreases the required minimum number of enrollees in Native American language nests funded by the grant program from 10 to 5 enrollees, and in the Native American language survival schools from 15 to 10 enrollees. Finally, the bill increases the maximum possible duration of all Esther Martinez grants from three years to five. The bill was reported favorably out of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee and awaits a floor vote in the Senate. In the House, the bill was referred to the House Education and Workforce Committee. [Track the bills.](#)

[Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act](#)

The bill was introduced in the Senate on March 9, 2017 and would establish a competitive grant program in the Department of Education, for institutions of higher education to encourage the sustainable expansion of study abroad opportunities for undergraduate students in the United States. It is named after the late Illinois Senator, Paul Simon, who encouraged Congress to come together to prepare the next generation of Americans with the global knowledge and skills needed for success in an increasingly interconnected world. The bill has been referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. [Track the bill.](#)

UPCOMING MEMBER EVENTS

PSMLA 2017 Conference	October 5-7, 2017 Holiday Inn Harrisburg- Hershey Grantville, PA http://psmla.org/event/psmla-fall-conference-2017
ATA 58th Annual Conference	October 25-28, 2017 Washington Hilton Washington, D.C. http://www.atanet.org/conf/2017/
NABE Third Annual Dual Language Symposium	February 28-March 3, 2018 Albuquerque Convention Center Albuquerque, NM http://www.nabe-conference.com/index.html

If your organization/ company is a member of JNCL-NCLIS and you'd like to share events in our Monthly Updates, please contact [Maria Pulcini](#).

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