



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

MONTHLY UPDATE

May 31, 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, the Office of Management and Budget has released the President's full budget request for FY 2018. Based on the "skinny budget" released in March, this budget imposes harsh cuts and eliminates many of our programs. If passed, this budget would severely damage national capacity in languages and international education. Its overall prospects on Capitol Hill are dim, as Congressional leaders have already publicly indicated that they favor a Continuing Resolution for FY 2018. Nonetheless, we must maintain pressure to ensure that our programs are indeed funded.

Our [analysis of the budget request](#) provides as much information as is available at the moment; we have links to all of the budget requests and justifications on our website.

As you've likely read in the media, the overarching theme for the President's budget is to increase defense spending while cutting almost everything else; that is to say, languages and international education aren't necessarily being singled out. Nevertheless, the justifications being offered - that Title VI/Fulbright-Hays programs in the Department of Education are duplicative of programs in the Department of Defense (hint: they're not, and in fact, the DoD programs are built on the capacity maintained by Title VI/F-H), or that the exchange programs in the Department of State deserve a 52% reduction in funding because they are also duplicative (of what is unclear), or that the \$400 million in Title IV of the Every Student Succeeds Act isn't enough funding to have any impact - are thin reeds indeed upon which to justify enormous cuts. These lines of reasoning should be familiar, however, as they've been used against our programs many times in the past.

Looking forward, we will work aggressively to maintain funding for our programs. We are already working with coalition partners; the National Humanities Alliance, the Modern Language Association, ACTFL, and the Council of Social Science Associations have all issued action alerts in the past few days, and we've shared them with you. Please do send messages through them if you've not already. JNCL-NCLIS will be sending an action alert later next week. The sustained pressure on Congress, from multiple organizations, is an important step in defending these programs. We will also look for additional opportunities to place and highlight editorials (see the [recent article by Mohamed Abdel-Kader in The Hill](#), for example). Finally, the staff at JNCL-NCLIS has an active calendar for visiting Capitol Hill to lobby for our programs.

As always, feel free to contact us with questions, concerns, and ideas.

With Best Regards,

Bill Rivers
Executive Director

WELCOME, SIERRA BRUMMETT!

Join JNCL-NCLIS in welcoming Sierra Brummett as a Policy Intern for the summer 2017 term!

Sierra is entering her third (and final) year at The George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C. where she is focusing on policy and international law. In 2012, she graduated from Pacific University in Portland, Oregon with a B.A. in Ethics, Society, and Law and minors in both French and Spanish. While pursuing her undergraduate degree, she studied abroad in Paris, France at the historic Université Paris-Sorbonne. Sierra has always had an interest in foreign language which she has explored by teaching French to American middle school students, visiting 13 countries, and spearheading a language conversation program for the International Law Society at her school. Combining that interest with her career-focus on policy, Sierra joined JNCL-NCLIS for the summer as an intern. Her email address is sbrummett@languagepolicy.org.

HISTORICAL APPROPRIATIONS

"PBR" refers to President's Budget Request. For cells denoted with asterisks, the funding level is not presently clear.

(in thousands)	FY15 Omnibus	FY16 Omnibus	FY17 Omnibus	FY18 PBR	Proposed Change FY17- FY18
State Department, ECA	589,900	590,900	634,143	285,000	-349,143
Academic Programs	331,636	309,451	320,126	148,600	-171,526
Fulbright Program	236,485	236,000	240,000	125,600	-114,400
Global Academic Exchanges	58,351	58,651	63,176	16,000	-47,176
English Language Programs	N/A	N/A	42,030	10,000	-32,030
Special Academic Exchanges	36,800	14,800	16,950	7,000	-9,950
Professional/Cultural Exchanges	195,240	197,240	214,700	91,650	-123,050
International Visitor Leadership Program	89,665	89,665	97,765	49,282	-48,483
Citizen Exchange Programs	100,000	102,000	111,360	42,368	-68,992
[Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX)]	0	4,000	4,125	*****	*****
[Ambassador Stevens Virtual Exchange Program]	N/A	N/A	4,990	0	-4,990
Special Professional/Cultural Exchanges	5,575	5,575	5,575	0	-5,575
Bureau of Intelligence & Research					
Office of Analysis for Russia & Eurasia Title VIII	3,000	3,000	3,000	*****	*****
(in thousands)	FY15 Omnibus	FY16 Omnibus	FY17 Omnibus	FY18 PBR	Proposed Change FY17- FY18
Department of Education					
Elementary and Secondary Ed					
Title III - OELE					
English Learner Education	737,400	737,400	736,000	736,000	no change
Indian Student Education	123,939	143,939	143,700	143,665	-5,000
Title IV, Part A of ESSA - Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants	N/A	N/A	400,000	0	-400,000
Title VI - Sec. 6133	N/A	N/A	1,313	1,200	-113
Higher Education	1,924,839	1,982,185	2,055,439	1,537,033	-518,406
Title VI - IFLE	72,164	72,164	72,164	0	-72,164
Domestic Programs	65,103	65,103	65,103	0	-65,103
Overseas Programs (Title VI)	7,061	7,061	7,061	0	-7,061
(in thousands)	FY15 Omnibus	FY16 Omnibus	FY17 Omnibus	FY18 PBR	Proposed Change FY17- FY18
Defense Department					
Defense Human Resources Activity (DHRA)	673,655	678,470	718,620	35,249	-683,371
DLNSEO	48,485	49,309	*****	*****	*****
Army					
Operations & Maintenance, Army	31,961,920	32,399,440	33,231,014	38,945,417	(+) 5714403
Specialized Skill Training	896,529	954,000	1,036,194	1,015,541	-20,653

DLIFLC	261,744	301,000	307,500	282,425	-25,075
DARPA	2,914,770	2,951,693	2,973,036	3,170,190	(+) 197154
Others					
National Science Foundation	7,344,205	7,463,485	7,472,215	6,650,000	-822,215
Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences	276,190	272,200	272,000	244,000	-28,000
National Endowment for the Humanities	146,021	147,900	149,848	42,307	-107,541
Institute of Education Sciences	573,935	618,015	605,267	616,839	(+) 11572

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.](#)

LANGUAGE LEARNING CHALLENGE

Would you wager on your language learning abilities?

David Bong, CEO of our member organization Avant Assessment, and Mike Biglan, the CEO of Analytic Spot have placed a bet. After 30 minutes of self-study in Spanish per day for three months, who would show the most growth? The loser would donate \$1,000 to JNCL-NCLIS! Follow David and Mike as they chronicle their Spanish-learning journeys via [blog](#) and [tweet!](#)

You're invited to join the challenge!

Avant Assessment is offering pre- and post-challenge STAMP or WorldSpeak assessments to those willing to undertake a similar challenge! The assessments are available in a range of languages:

STAMP (Four skill online assessment)

Arabic
English
French
German

WorldSpeak

Filipino (Tagalog)
Somali Maay Maay
Somali Maxaa
Vietnamese

Hebrew
Hindi
Italian
Japanese
Mandarin
(Simplified and Traditional)
Russian
Spanish

Yup'ik

Contact Maria Pulcini for more details: mpulcini@languagepolicy.org

READER'S CHOICE

The top language news in March 2017, according to readers of our weekly NewsBrief.

[Breaking school language barriers](#)

04/11/2017

In southern California's Brawley Union High School District, students newly arrived from Mexico study math and science using a university-developed curriculum written in Spanish. In the Omaha Public Schools, bilingual picture books created by district staff supplement the education of students who speak the Karen language of Burma. Despite research showing that native-language instruction improves the achievement of English learners, such localized efforts seem more exception than rule. [Read more.](#)

[The language industry in the Trump administration](#) (GALA Guest Blog by Bill Rivers)

04/11/2017

Having just returned from my sixth GALA Language of Business Conference in Amsterdam, I've had time to reflect on all of the conversations there with GALA members and attendees. One theme recurred: what does the Trump Administration mean for the language industry? More accurately, what do I think it means, given the role I have at the Joint National Committee for Languages, working in Washington, D.C., on behalf of the Language Enterprise? [Read more.](#)

[Bilingual children outperform native speakers by age 7](#)

04/10/2017

Children who speak English as a second language outperform their native speaking classmates in a range of academic tests by the age of seven, despite lagging behind when they start school, research has shown. A study looking at the educational development of children of migrants reveals that while they are behind their monolingual peers at age five, they scored higher in maths and writing tests after just two years later. Academics from the University of Sydney tracked the development of 19,000 UK infants up to the age of 11, which showed that those who spoke more than one language had higher cognitive development scores. [Read more.](#)

[Employee language proficiency helps global businesses compete, says new joint study by Forbes Insights and Rosetta Stone](#)

03/30/2017

According to a new report released today by Forbes Insights, "Best in Class: How Enterprises Succeed with Language Learning Programs," with more companies expanding globally, having a multilingual workforce has become a critical success factor and businesses are taking action to provide employees with language learning resources. Businesses with multilingual teams reported seeing a positive impact across various areas, such as improved reputation within specific geographic markets and on a global scale. Employees also reap the benefits of language proficiency with improved performance, confidence and increased engagement at work. [Read more](#) or [download the report](#).

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 in September.

UPCOMING MEMBER EVENTS

ASLTA 2017 Conference	June 28-July 1, 2017 Salt Lake Marriott Downtown at City Creek Salt Lake City, UT https://aslta.org/aslta-9th-biennial-conference/
AATK 2017 Conference	June 29-July 1, 2017 University of Southern California Los Angeles, CA http://dornsife.usc.edu/eascenter/aatk/
LSA Linguistic Institute	July 5-August 1, 2017 University of Kentucky Lexington, KY https://lsa2017.uky.edu/
NNELL Summer Institute	July 7-9, 2017 The Grand Summit Hotel Summit, NJ http://nnell.org/summer-institute-2017/

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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