

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 9, 2009

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

I write on behalf of the undersigned higher education associations to urge swift passage of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 (H.R. 2410), which includes the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2009. The Simon bill, which enjoys broad bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, was only one step shy of passage when the 110th Congress ended. We encourage the House to promptly pass this important measure, which will greatly advance and diversify study abroad opportunities for all U.S. undergraduates.

Today's global demands challenge every sector of our economy, both public and private, and affect workers in each of our communities across the country. Our nation's economic competitiveness, diplomatic strategies and security efforts continue to rely on our ability to understand and communicate with the rest of the world. However, even with these increased demands for global skills, only about 1 percent of our students have the opportunity to study abroad each year.

This legislation, which follows the excellent work of the congressionally and federally appointed Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program, sets the goal of having 1 million students studying abroad annually within 10 years' time and establishes a structure to achieve that goal. The program will enable students from all backgrounds to have a quality study abroad experience and expand study abroad opportunities to non-traditional but critical destinations, with a specific emphasis on developing countries.

Together, we ask the House to pass this legislation that will vastly improve the global knowledge base of our college graduates, advance our nation's economic networks and serve vital diplomacy and security needs worldwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly C. Broad".

Molly Corbett Broad
President

MCB/ldw

On behalf of:
Abroadco

Abroad View Foundation
American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
American Institute for Foreign Study
American Political Science Association
AMIDEAST
Asia Society
Association for Safe International Road Travel
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
AustraLearn/AsiaLearn/EuroLearn (Educational Programs of GlobalLinks)
Bardoli Global
CEA – Global Education Solutions
Center for Global Education at Loyola Marymount University
CEMAT – The Center for Maghribi Studies in Tunis
CIEE – Council on International Educational Exchange
Community Colleges for International Development
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council on International Education of the State University of New York
EDUCAUSE
Global Student Experience
GoAbroad.com
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
IES Abroad
Institute for Study Abroad
International Student Exchange Program
LanguageCorps
Language Magazine
LASPAU: Academic and Professional Programs for the Americas
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
National Council for Languages and International Studies
Phelps Stokes Fund
Semester at Sea and Institute for Shipboard Education
StudyAbroad.com
Transitions Abroad
University Continuing Education Association
U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy
World Education Services, Inc.
World Learning
United Negro College Fund