



American Council on Education
Office of the President

March 14, 2007

The Honorable Tom Lantos
Chairman
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Ranking Member
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Lantos and Ranking Member Ros-Lehtinen:

I write on behalf of the six national presidential higher education associations listed below to express our strong support for H.R. 1469, a bill to establish the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation. We deeply appreciate your leadership in introducing this important and worthwhile measure and pledge to work with you for its enactment.

Strong study abroad programs are important to our economic competitiveness, our future diplomacy and security, and clearly the education of our students. For the American workforce to be competitive in the global marketplace, our students need experience in and knowledge of the world outside the United States.

This legislation, which follows the excellent work of the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program, will enable all sectors of the student population to have a study abroad experience and expand study abroad opportunities to non-traditional but critical destinations. The bill's stated target of having 1 million students studying abroad in 10 years is vital and feasible, and the program your legislation would establish will enable us to achieve that goal.

Again, thank you for your leadership. We look forward to working with you and energizing our institutions to actively support H.R. 1469.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ward', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

David Ward
President

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On behalf of:

American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Universities
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges