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April 21, 2011

The Honorable Arne Duncan  
Secretary  
United States Department of Education  
LBJ Education Building, Room 7W311  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

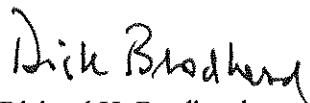
On behalf of Duke University, I write to express my dismay and concern about the Title VI international education funding situation for the remainder of this fiscal year. Under HR 1473, passed by Congress last week, these programs are slated to receive a disproportionate reduction in funding. I ask you to use your discretion to mitigate the harm that could be caused by such a drastic cut.

It is my understanding that the Department of Education is considering decreasing funding for these programs by 40 percent, or \$50 million. It is short-sighted and dangerous to cut funding for Title VI programs, which build national expertise in international and area studies and train students in critically important foreign languages.

Duke is proud to contribute to this strategic priority for our nation. Currently at Duke we receive over \$3 million in Title VI awards to seven centers, totaling over \$12 million over the four years of the current cycle. The 40 percent reduction in the new funding bill could therefore cost Duke almost \$4 million over the remaining grant cycle, eliminating 14 graduate fellowships each year for students studying and researching in areas where external funding is difficult to find. In addition, funding for personnel and programming will be curtailed.

I recognize that the Department will suffer widespread reductions in funding as a result of HR 1473. I understand that as funding for the Department's Fulbright Hays and Title VI programs was not specified in H.R.1473, the Department is working to finalize its budget for these programs within the total amount allocated for Higher Education. I urge you to take a strong stance to maintain our international education capacity, which is of vital strategic importance to our nation. International education has taken decades to build, and if programs such as those supported by Title VI are not safeguarded, it could be difficult to reconstruct. Thank you for your consideration and your continued support.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Brodhead

cc: Senator Richard Burr  
Senator Kay Hagan  
Representative David Price  
Michael Schoenfeld  
Gilbert Merckx  
Chris Simmons