

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and  
Related Programs  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and  
Related Programs  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Lee:

We write in support of the Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students (IDEAS) program, a Department of State (State) initiative that promotes study abroad educational opportunities, in the Fiscal Year 2024 House State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill. As our world becomes increasingly interconnected, it is crucial that students are given the opportunity to expand their world knowledge through study abroad.

Currently, only ten percent of American college students participate in study abroad prior to graduation. Minority, first-generation, and community school students are underrepresented among participants. Furthermore, study abroad programs rarely prioritize studying in developing countries that would offer students new, enlightening experiences. Expanding opportunities would benefit both students and our nation as a whole.

State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs provides competitive grants to U.S. universities and colleges to establish, expand, and diversify their study abroad programming through the IDEAS grant program. To build on the success of the IDEAS grant program, we humbly request the inclusion of the following report language:

Of the funds provided under this Act to the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, not less than \$5 million shall be set aside for grants under the Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students (IDEAS) grant program. The Subcommittee also urges State to rename the IDEAS program the "Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program."

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your support of study abroad opportunities.

Sincerely,

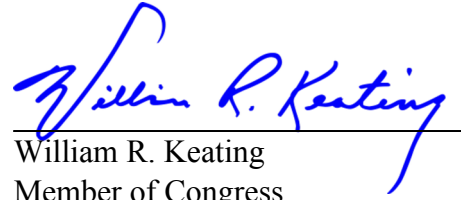


Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



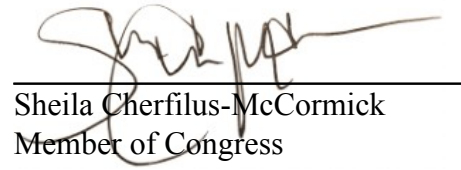
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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



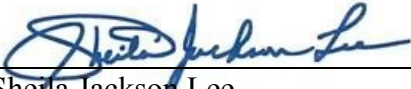
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Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



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Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



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Sheria Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



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Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress