Dear Senator Dodd:

The undersigned organizations of the Coalition for International Education are pleased to support "The International and Foreign Language Studies Act of 2004," a bill to amend Part A of Title VI of the Higher Education Act (HEA). The Coalition for International Education is a group of 34 higher education associations with interest in the U.S. Department of Education's programs and policies supporting international and foreign language education.

We heartily endorse your legislation to strengthen certain Title VI programs that address the nation's needs for foreign language and area expertise, as well as for a globally competent citizenry. The Afghanistan and Iraq wars, terrorism, and growing global economic competitiveness have brought renewed urgency to increasing America’s international knowledge and skills. This bill would reinforce the federal government's catalytic role in this regard.

We thank you for including provisions in the bill recommended by the Coalition in May 2003 to reauthorize HEA-Title VI. We believe these provisions will enhance several Part A programs relating to foreign language and area studies. We hope that as the HEA reauthorization process continues, the Senate will address other Coalition recommendations to strengthen the Part B international business education programs, the Part C Institute for International Public Policy, and other portions of Parts A and D.

We greatly appreciate your long-time support and continued leadership in international and foreign language education.

Submitted by the following organizations:

African Studies Association

cc: Mary Ellen McGuire