

RUSH HOLT
Twelfth District, New Jersey

1019 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-5801
Fax 202-225-6025

50 Washington Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550
609-750-9365
Fax 609-750-0618

website and e-mail:
www.holt.house.gov



Congress of the United States

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Support America's Global Competitiveness

Dear Colleague:

The national needs for Americans with expertise and knowledge in foreign languages and world regions have expanded with globalization and national security demands, but the nation is dangerously behind. International and foreign language education historically have not been high priorities in the nation's schools, or in most institutions of higher education. **That is why I am introducing legislation creating an Assistant Secretary of International and Foreign language programs**

International and foreign language programs are scattered throughout the Department of Education. The largest programs in the federal government, Title VI and Fulbright-Hays, are not currently administered at the executive level, but at the bottom of the bureaucratic chain within the Office of Postsecondary Education. An Office/Assistant Secretary would consolidate administration of all international education and foreign language programs under an executive-level person appointed by the President reporting to the Secretary. This would enable better coordination and strategic vision within the Department, as well as an integrated and articulated approach among multiple systems—including K-12, higher education, and business—to help address the nation's critical shortcomings.

This idea has been recommend by the National Academy of Science "The Department of Education should consolidate oversight of its international education and foreign language programs under an executive-level person who would also provide strategic direction and consult and coordinate with other federal agencies. The position should be one that requires presidential appointment and Senate confirmation." "International Education and Foreign Languages: Keys to Securing America's Future." March 2007, page 6.

To cosponsor **The International Education Leadership Act of 2008** please contact Chris Hartmann in Congressman Rush Holt's office X5-5801
Christopher.Hartmann@mail.house.gov

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress