

**Reauthorization of ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act)
Markup Oct. 25, 2011 TFLA Website Advocacy #47**

Casey Amendment #1 Title IV ESEA TFLA Website Advocacy #48

**Coalition for International Education (CIE) letter regarding ESEA TFLA
Website Advocacy #48**

It is a very busy time here in the Nation's Capital with foreign language education, particularly the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) and Title VI and Fulbright-Hays coming under fire from all sides.

Last Wednesday, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions held a markup for the recently proposed 868-page bill to Reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. This bill was five years overdue and intended as a major overhaul of No Child Left Behind. Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) opened the hearing by stating that all children deserve the opportunity and resources to succeed in a "competitive global marketplace." Yet, when he listed the core subjects in a "Well-Rounded Education," he made no mention of foreign language. The Casey amendment, attached, for "Well-Rounded Education" contains the only reference to foreign language education in the entirety of the bill, and combines a number of programs into one. Grants would be offered from the Department of Education to State Educational Departments, and Local Educational Agencies would receive funding through a competitive subgrants process. In combining these programs, however, foreign languages is forced to compete with: history, civics, social studies, music and the arts, economics, environmental education, financial literacy, geography, health education and physical education. The bottom line is that under the "Well-Rounded Education," there is no guaranteed funding stream for foreign languages.

Positively, Senator Harkin made it clear that this bill is still in its infancy and that they have been taking suggestions and community feedback very seriously. Harkin indicated that this is simply a starting point for the Reauthorization of ESEA; it is not by any means, a perfect bill, but the result of many compromises, and at 868 pages, it is significantly smaller than No Child Left Behind, which was 1200+ pages. Both Senator Harkin, Senator Enzi, and most of the committee acknowledged the flaws in No Child Left Behind. This bill will increase transparency for teachers and parents, allow the curricula to be influenced by the necessities of each local school district, and it will be significantly less test/results-driven than No Child Left Behind. This bill requires the Secretary of Education to create a "Secretary's Report Card" annually, rather than the Adequate Yearly Progress from the schools and districts, as required by No Child Left Behind.

A number of other amendments were considered and passed, with no relevance to foreign language education, aside from an amendment cosponsored by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) that exempts teachers of indigenous Native American languages from highly qualified

requirements. This contains relevance for heritage languages and ensures that endangered languages and cultures may be preserved through lightening of credentials.

The bill was passed with bipartisan support by the HELP Committee in a 15 – 7 vote. It is now being sent to the entire Senate for consideration and the next hearing is currently scheduled for Nov. 8th.

Also attached, for your information is a letter from the Coalition for International Education (CIE) to which JNCL and some JNCL members belong, regarding funding for Title VI and Fulbright-Hays.

JNCL-NCLIS
4646 40th Street NW, Suite 310
Washington DC 20016
Tel: 202-966-8477
Fax: 202-966-8310
Email: *info@languagepolicy.org*