Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposals by the Trump Administration to severely cut the budgets of the Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and the Department of Education’s Title VI programs in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget. If enacted, the budget would eliminate all federal government funding for the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) and the affiliated 25 American Overseas Research Centers that support critical scholarly and educational programs in 29 countries. Instead, I urge you to support level funding for ECA and Title VI.

I am an active member of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, one of the 25 centers. All of the centers provide essential support for U.S. and international scholars engaged in research, education, and outreach activities in the host countries. Each year, the centers support 50,000 scholars, journalists, researchers, embassy staff, and the public. More than 400 U.S. universities, colleges, and museums are members of the centers.

These centers have long played a crucial role in furthering the academic study of the countries and regions in which they are based. They provide fellowships for established and younger scholars in a wide variety of fields – social sciences, humanities, cultural heritage, and contemporary affairs – and allow access to sites, archives, and information that are otherwise inaccessible. They facilitate everything from securing research permits and finding suitable lodging to helping scholars establish connections with local universities, research institutes, and government officials. They provide forums for educational exchanges through lecture series, and maintain libraries that are used widely by local scholars and students.

In short, CAORC and the 25 American Overseas Research Centers are vital for U.S. scholars engaged in education, research, and public outreach abroad. Without federal support, these centers will be forced to drastically scale back their operations and services. To ensure their continued existence, please support efforts to restore the FY2019 level of funding for ECA and Title VI.

Sincerely,