At this moment of conflict, unity among our allies, partners, and friends around the world is essential to security and stability. Today’s coordinated response to Russian aggression relies on critical, lasting bonds built on shared values, common experiences, and meaningful international friendships. They require trust, respect, and empathy.

How do we build, nurture, and sustain these important cross-national bonds?

The Fulbright Program has done this for 75 years. America’s signature exchange program has created a network of 400,000 foreign and American alumni united in their commitment to peace and prosperity through mutual understanding.

When foreign Fulbright scholars and students devote significant time in communities across America — spending their grants in local economies — they develop an affection and respect for the United States they carry all their lives. When American Fulbright grantees work and study overseas, they are citizen ambassadors, building good will and partnerships in 165 countries, often in strategic areas where locals never knew an American.

America should invest more fully in a program that underpins our international partnerships and advances security.

The Fulbright Association, representing 120,000 alumni across America, requests an appropriation of $403 million for the Fulbright Program for FY2023. This investment includes (a) $363m to restore funding to FY 2010 levels, which was followed by 12 years of flat funding, and (b) an additional $40m to make it stronger than ever. This level of funding will:

- **Energize American leadership** in public diplomacy and global exchanges
- Prompt and reward even more investment by 49 co-funding, partner countries (e.g., Germany, France, UK, Mexico), which contribute another $100m annually
- Increase the number of grants, spreading the impact to more locations
- **Counter China’s strategic and significant investment** in academic exchanges
- Strengthen the value of individual grants to attract strong candidates
- Provide more resources to recruit Americans who more fully represent us all, including persons with disabilities
- Support global efforts to engage Fulbright alumni in furthering the Program’s work to create a world with a little more knowledge and a little less conflict