

## **CLTA Statement in Response to Recent Government Funding Cuts**

As a professional organization devoted to reimagining world language education and promoting multilingualism, multiculturalism, and global readiness for transformative education, the California Language Teachers' Association (CLTA) opposes recent governmental policies and executive orders that harm vital programs in our country and its cherished democracy, and likewise devastate critical programs worldwide. We recognize that a central purpose of world language education is to build bridges between cultures at home and abroad, but funding cuts and their subsequent harms overwhelm, dishearten, divide, and destroy. [A Boston University study estimates that recent funding cuts abroad have already contributed to the deaths of tens of thousands and will lead to many thousands more.](#)

As language educators, we seek to validate students' experiences and provide opportunities to take action. We seek to promote goodwill at home and abroad and therefore call for an immediate reinstatement of funding and benevolent policies to begin to address the damages caused by cuts to:

### **Education:**

- Billions have been cut from the US Department of Education, National Endowment for the Humanities, and other agencies including:
  - student loans cuts
  - cuts to educational programs for low-income and rural children
  - cuts to English language acquisition programs
  - cuts to world language education programs
  - cuts in teacher training programs
  - cuts to school safety and child mental health programs
  - cuts to university research
  - elimination of farm-to-school cafeteria nutrition programs

### **Critical Languages:**

- The Department of Defense has cut flagship language programs in Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, and Russian at five universities in the western U.S.

### **International Education:**

- Visas for international students have been revoked.
- Some international students and even U.S. citizens have been deported.

- The President called in the National Guard against the will of a sitting state governor, an action not taken since the Civil Rights era.
- The Fulbright study abroad program, established in 1925, is facing elimination.

World Aid:

- Billions for programs to benefit the health and welfare of people around the world have been cut, including:
  - the World Food Program
  - the UN program on HIV-AIDS
  - global health programs
  - refugees and migrant services
  - programs to support women and girls

As language educators, for the benefit of children and families at home and around the world, we call for an immediate reinstatement of these programs, and for the ethical and lawful treatment of all human beings.