

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

June 2, 2008

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
2201 C St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

As chairmen of panels of the House of Representatives with oversight of various aspects of U.S. programs supporting international education, we write to thank you for your efforts to correct the unfortunate turn of events last week when Palestinian students from Gaza had their Fulbright scholarships to American universities cancelled. We were glad to learn from the State Department today that the scholarships have been restored, and that the Department is working with Israeli authorities to ensure that the students obtain the appropriate exit visas.

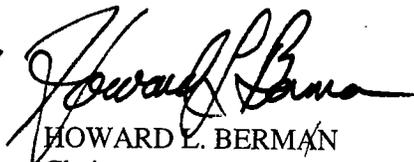
We also want to reiterate our very strong belief that Fulbright scholarships should never be caught up in political considerations. The Fulbright scholarships are of enormous value. They improve foreigners' understanding and appreciation of the American people and our system of government and they enable the students who participate in the program to contribute to important democratic and economic activities in their own countries when their studies are concluded.

We were taken by surprise and greatly concerned when we learned that scholarships were being revoked because the program sponsors believed that the students would not be allowed to leave Gaza. We appreciate the prompt and forceful attention you gave to this matter. Wherever students are coming from to study at American universities, politics should not be allowed to stand in their way.

Sincerely,



GEORGE MILLER  
Chairman  
Committee on  
Education and Labor



HOWARD L. BERMAN  
Chairman  
Committee on  
Foreign Affairs



BILL DELAHUNT  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on  
International Organizations,  
Human Rights and Oversight