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PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE APPLAUDS SENATOR AKAKA AND REP. BAIRD EFFORTS TO ADDRESS LACK OF FEDERAL WORKFORCE FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS

Washington, D.C. -- The Partnership for Public Service today released the following statement applauding Senator Akaka, Representative Baird and co-sponsors of the National Foreign Language Coordination Act of 2007. Both the House and Senate bills introduced today address the lack of federal workforce foreign language skills.

“The Partnership for Public Service is pleased to support the efforts of Senator Akaka and Representative Baird to establish a National Foreign Language Coordination Council.

The critical shortage in U.S. foreign language proficiency affects our national security, our global competitiveness, and virtually every segment of our government, so the steps to address it must be as comprehensive as possible. Meeting the need requires a coordinated effort among the local, state, and national levels and involvement of all the relevant stakeholders: industry, academia, language associations, heritage communities, and government.

The Partnership for Public Service believes that the federal government is best suited to accomplish so far-reaching a goal, and we applaud Senator Akaka and Representative Baird for introducing legislation to make improving U.S. foreign language proficiency a national priority.

Senator Akaka and Representative Baird are true champions of effective federal government.”

- Max Stier, President and CEO
Partnership for Public Service

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The Partnership for Public Service works to revitalize federal government by inspiring all generations to serve and by transforming the way government works. Visit ourpublicservice.org for more information.