

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 26, 2004

HE Kostis Stephanopoulos
President of the Hellenic Republic
Stisihorou #17 and Vasileos Georgiou B7
Athens, Greece 10027

Dear Mr. President:

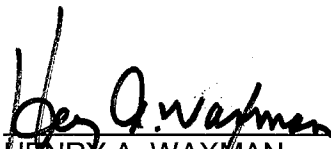
We are writing to commend your government on its decision to move forward with legislation establishing January 27, the day of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp, as a national remembrance day for Greek Jews killed in the Holocaust. This is a historic step that will help promote tolerance, combat the scourges of anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial, and give due respect to the victims.

More than two-thirds of Greece's 80,000 Jews tragically perished in Nazi death camps or during the German occupation of Greece in World War II. We share your profound belief in the importance of remembering their suffering. At a time when the world is experiencing an alarming rise in hate crimes, Greece's new Holocaust remembrance day serves as a model of the high level of governmental and societal attention needed to address the crisis.

In addition, we applaud Foreign Minister Papandreou's pledge to create a coalition of Greek Jews and non-Jews who will work with communities worldwide to challenge anti-Semitic sentiment in Greece and across the European continent. We also are pleased to hear about the measures being taken by Greek authorities to step up protection for Jewish community sites in Greece in the wake of the deadly terrorist attacks against synagogues in Istanbul. We look forward to hearing more about legislative measures introduced in the Greek parliament to strengthen hate crime laws and punishments for racism, anti-Semitism, religious discrimination.

These bold steps are representative of the U.S. and Greece's shared commitment to preserving an open and pluralistic society. We hope that our governments will continue to have opportunities to work together to advance these fundamental democratic values.


Sincerely,


HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress

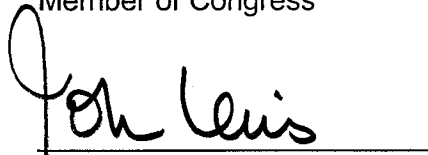

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Member of Congress


TOM LANTOS
Member of Congress

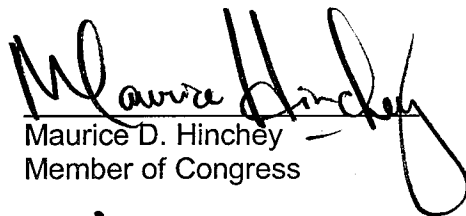

MARK S. KIRK
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

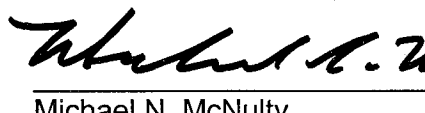

Michael Bilirakis
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress


Steve Israel
Member of Congress

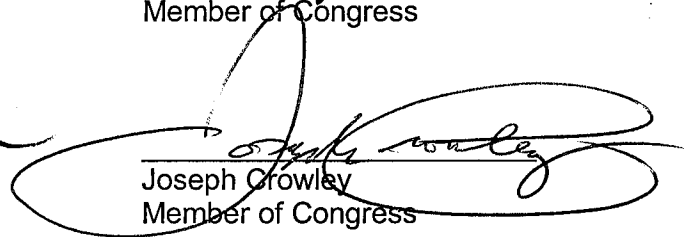

Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress

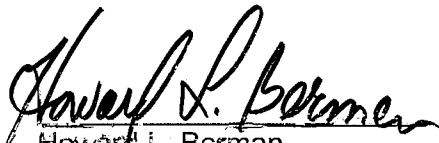

Jane Harman
Member of Congress


Michael N. McNulty
Member of Congress


Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

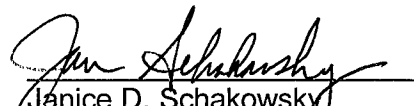

Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress

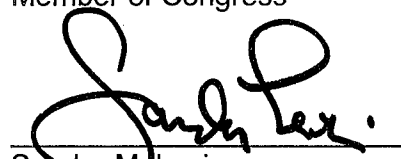

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

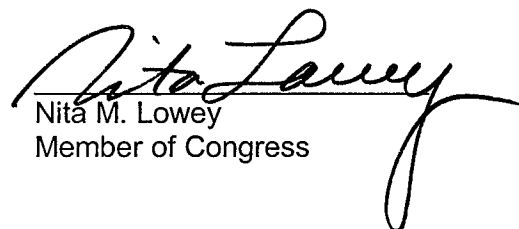

Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress

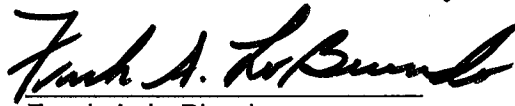

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress


Diane E. Watson
Member of Congress

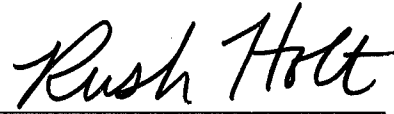

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress


Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress

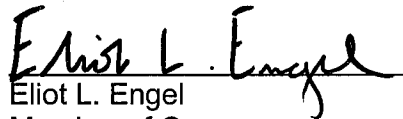

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



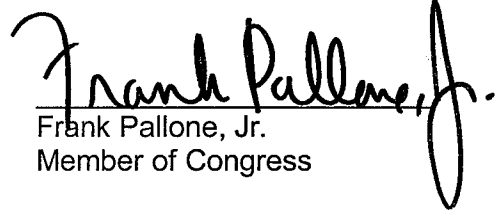
Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



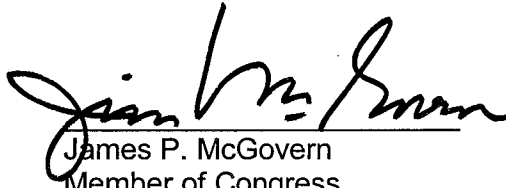
Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



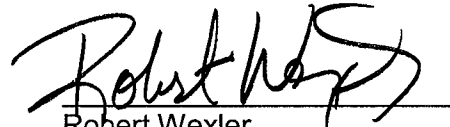
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Peter Deutsch
Member of Congress



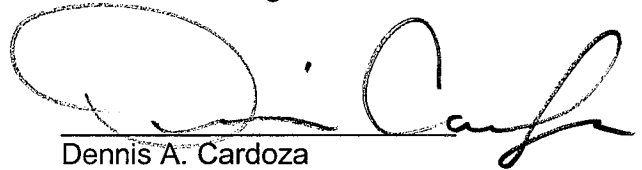
Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress



Robert Wexler
Member of Congress



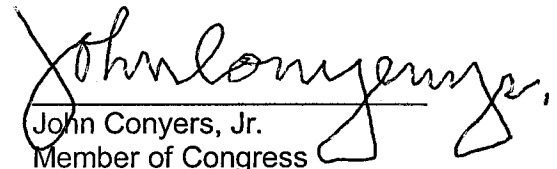
Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress



Dennis A. Cardoza
Member of Congress




Jack Kingston
Member of Congress



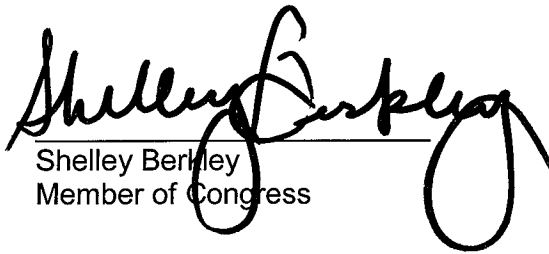
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Benjamin L. Cardin
Member of Congress



Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress

Letter to HE Kostis Stephanopoulos
President of the Hellenic Republic

1. Henry A. Waxman
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