

# *DOP Civic Responsibility Action Alert*

## **Tell Congress to Back the Return of the Parthenon Marbles.**

### **BACKGROUND**

Between 1801 and 1816, British nobleman, Thomas Bruce, seventh Earl of Elgin, took 100 sculpture pieces, now known as the Parthenon Marbles, from the Parthenon and transferred them to Great Britain. The Marbles were part of a frieze that adorned the Temple of Athena. In 1816, the British Parliament voted to purchase the Marbles from Lord Elgin and they now reside in the British Museum. The other half of the Marbles that comprise the frieze are in the New Acropolis Museum in Athens alongside plaster replicas of the Marbles that were taken. Despite years of efforts by the Greek Government to retain the Marbles, it has been unable to negotiate an agreement with its British counterparts to return the Marbles to Greece.

U.S. Representatives Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, along with U.S. Rep. Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ), introduced a congressional resolution that expresses the sense of Congress that the United Kingdom should enter into negotiations with Greece to facilitate the return of the Parthenon Marbles to Greece, May 2, 2017. They announced its introduction to the AHEPA family at our annual Capitol Hill Day the next day, May 3.

### **STATUS**

The congressional resolution, [H.Con.Res.51](#), has four co-sponsors and bipartisan support. It rests with the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

- [Click here to see listing of the U.S. representatives who have co-sponsored H.Con.Res.51.](#)

**Note:** The resolution is a U.S. House of Representatives resolution. Therefore, only your U.S. representative can co-sponsor.

### **ACTION**

Help us gain congressional support for the House's resolution.

Did you see your U.S. representative [listed as a co-sponsor](#)? If not, please encourage your representative to become a co-sponsor of H.Con.Res.51.

If your representative is already a co-sponsor, please contact them to thank them for their support.

### **How Do I Contact My Member of Congress?**

VIA Internet/E-mail/Letter/FAX

- Find your U.S. representative [here](#).

VIA Telephone

- In addition to writing your elected representative, you can also call him/her. You can contact your U.S. Representative through the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

## HELPFUL TIPS

- ✓ Identify yourself as a constituent.
- ✓ If calling, ask to speak with the Foreign Affairs Legislative Assistant or Legislative Director.
- ✓ Keep your message/request short. Politely request for the representative to co-sponsor **H.Con.Res.51**.
  - Messaging: Support the universal request to return the Parthenon Marbles to where they rightfully belong in Athens, Greece; in their own environment.
  - Support the reunification of a monument that represents Western Civilization and Democracy; a monument that belongs to all humanity and is part of the world's cultural heritage as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ✓ For expediency, we recommend sending a fax or telephoning as opposed to correspondence that is mailed. However, mailing a letter is suitable.
- ✓ Remember, members of Congress work for you and they want to hear from you.
- ✓ **Note**: For the purposes of record keeping, please send a copy of your correspondence to: Executive Director Elena Saviolakis, [elena@ahepa.org](mailto:elena@ahepa.org).
  - This will allow us to know who in Congress has been contacted for future follow-up.

## SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA

### Twitter

- Hashtag: #ReturnTheMarbles

Sample content:

- Bring the Parthenon Marbles home. [@Representative's Twitter handle] please support their return to Greece. Please co-sponsor H.Con.Res.51.
- The Parthenon Marbles belong in Athens in their own environment. [@Representative's Twitter handle] please support their return & co-sponsor HCR51.
- 200 years is a long time to be away from home. [@Representative's Twitter handle] please co-sponsor HCR51 to #ReturnTheMarbles
- Restore a monument that represents Western Civilization & Democracy. [@Representative's Twitter handle] please co-sponsor HCR51 to #ReturnTheMarbles

## SAMPLE CONTENT for EMAIL or LETTER

[DATE]

Hon. \_\_\_\_\_  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing as a constituent and on behalf of the Daughters of Penelope (DOP), a premier international grassroots association of Greek American women and Philhellenes, to request your

co-sponsorship of H.Con.Res.51, a bipartisan-supported resolution that expresses the sense of the Congress that the Parthenon Marbles should be returned to Greece.

Between 1801 and 1816, British nobleman, Thomas Bruce, seventh Earl of Elgin, took 100 sculpture pieces, now known as the Parthenon Marbles, from the Parthenon and transferred them to Great Britain. The Marbles were part of a frieze that adorned the Temple of Athena. In 1816, the British Parliament voted to purchase the Marbles from Lord Elgin and they now reside in the British Museum. The other half of the Marbles that comprise the frieze are in the New Acropolis Museum in Athens alongside plaster replicas of the Marbles that were taken. Despite years of efforts by the Greek Government to retain the Marbles, it has been unable to negotiate an agreement with its British counterparts to return the Marbles to Greece.

The Parthenon marbles are some of Greece's greatest examples of artistic expression and beauty, and should be on display in their country of origin. They are vital pieces of Greek history that belong to the Greek people and to all humanity. The Parthenon marbles are part of the world's cultural heritage as the Parthenon is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This resolution calls upon the United Kingdom and Greece to come to an agreement to finally return these treasures to their rightful home. **The return of the Parthenon marbles will make whole a monument that is a hallmark of Western Civilization and Democracy.**

Thank you for your consideration of my request to co-sponsor H.Con.Res.51. Please contact Representatives Carolyn Maloney or Gus Bilirakis to become a co-sponsor. Your co-sponsorship will send a clear message of support on this important cultural and historical issue to the American Hellenic community of [CITY/TOWN] that will be much appreciated. We anticipate a favorable reply.

Respectfully submitted,

[NAME]  
[CHAPTER/DISTRICT TITLE, if appropriate]  
[FULL ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP]