



Public Policy Priorities

The AHEPA Family's mission, which is based on its cultural heritage extending back to the ideals of ancient Greece, and on its deep involvement in present-day community service programs, guides the organization's public policy priorities.

International Relations/Foreign Policy

- **Strengthen U.S. relations with Greece – trusted, reliable NATO ally – a pillar of democracy and stability in West**
 - Greece: geostrategic importance to U.S. security. **NSA Souda Bay**, Crete, is an undervalued military asset.
 - Back continued U.S. engagement on Greece's economic and migratory crises.
 - Protect Greece's sovereignty in the Aegean Sea. Turkey's airspace violations must stop.
 - Maintaining Greece in the United States' Visa Waiver Program is in the U.S.'s national security interest.
 - Support a mutually-acceptable solution to the name recognition issue of FYROM.
- **Secure religious freedom and protection for the Ecumenical Patriarchate – the world's oldest Christian Church**
 - Urge Turkey to respect the rights & religious freedoms of Ecumenical Patriarchate and all religious minorities.
 - Reopen the Orthodox Seminary at Halki.
- **End the 43-year illegal occupation of the Republic of Cyprus—a member of the European Union**
 - Back a just, viable solution where all Cypriots can enjoy the same democratic values & human rights that we do.
 - **CBM**: Call for the removal of 40,000+ illegal Turkish occupation troops from Cyprus.
 - U.S. policy affirms Cyprus's sovereign right to explore energy findings within its exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Strengthen Investments that Strengthen Our Society

We understand it is a challenging budgetary environment. However, we seek to ensure proper federal funding levels for the following **cost-effective, lifesaving, or job creating** programs that impact our community service programs and projects:

- **HUD Section 202 Housing for Elderly Program**: AHEPA/DOP combined have 95 properties (5,049 units) spanning 21 states.
 - **FY18 HUD 202 Ask**: Back House recommended \$573 million (includes \$90 million for service coordinators)
 - **Restore & Fund: Section 202 Capital Advance Program** for new units. **AHEPA/DOP waiting list: 4,795.**
 - **Support S.548/H.R.1661**: Strengthen the bipartisan-backed Affordable Housing Tax Credit.
- **NIH**: A strong investment in medical research improves Americans' lives and drives the economy. Of specific importance:
 - **Thalassemia (Cooley's Anemia)** research programs at **NHLBI** (Division of Blood Diseases Resources) & **NIDDK** (Kidney, Urologic, & Hematologic Diseases Division); and cancer research at **NCI**.
- **Domestic Violence Programs**: FY18 Asks: Violence Against Women Act (**VAWA**) - \$589.5 million; Victims of Crime Act (**VOCA**) Crime Victims Fund – set cap at \$2.737 billion, without transfers to programs not authorized under VOCA.
 - **Co-sponsor H.R.818**: Join bipartisan support to safeguard the Crime Victims' Fund.
- **Foreign Aid**: U.S. assistance for Cyprus, in event of reunification, should be used to contribute toward cost of reunification.

Cultural

- **Co-sponsor H.Con.Res.51**: Call for the restoration of the Parthenon, an important monument to our **American heritage** because the Parthenon is a hallmark of Western Civilization and Democracy, with the return of the Parthenon Marbles.

Veterans

- **Back S.238/H.R.751**: Support a Presidential review of WWII hero Lt. Col. James Megellas' Medal of Honor case.

Caucus Growth (House Only)

- Join the **Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues** (Contact Reps. **Bilirakis** or **Maloney** to join)
- Join the **Congressional Hellenic Israel Alliance** (Contact Reps. **Bilirakis** or **Deutch** to join)
- Join the **Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus** (Contact Reps. **Poe** or **Costa** to join)

Founded in 1922 to combat bigotry and discrimination, AHEPA is the largest and oldest American-based, Greek heritage grassroots membership organization. Its mission is to promote the ancient Greek ideals of philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism.
For more information or questions, please visit www.ahepa.org, or contact Andrew Kaffes at Andrew@agkaffes.com.