



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 the U.S. strategic partnership with Greece – a trusted, reliable NATO ally – a pillar of democracy, stability**
 - **Co-Sponsor H.Res.91**: Reaffirm the robust commitment of the House of Representatives to the importance of the United States-Greece strategic partnership.
 - Greece: geostrategic importance to U.S. security. **NSA Souda Bay**, Crete, is an undervalued military asset.
 - Protect Greece's sovereignty in the Aegean Sea. Turkey's frequent airspace violations must stop.
 - Maintaining Greece in the United States' Visa Waiver Program is in the U.S.'s national security interest.
- **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.
 - Call for the historic Orthodox Seminary at Halki to be reopened.
- **End the 45-year illegal occupation of the Republic of Cyprus—a European Union member & U.S. Strategic Partner**
 - 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).
 - Enhance defense cooperation. Lift the prohibition on the transfer of defense articles to the Republic of Cyprus.

Strengthen Investments that Strengthen Our Society & Security

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 enhance our security:

- **HUD Section 202 Housing for Elderly Program**: AHEPA/DOP combined have **95 properties** spanning 21 states.
 - FY20 Ask: Support House's \$803M appropriation for 202 program, including \$140M for new construction.
 - **Co-Sponsor H.R.3077/S.1703**: Strengthen the bipartisan-backed Affordable Housing Tax Credit, a model public-private partnership. Establish a minimum 4% credit rate for acquisitions.
- **Foreign Aid**: Support \$2 million for **Greece's International Military Education & Training (IMET)** Program.
- **NIH**: Maximize investment in medical research. It improves Americans' lives and drives the economy. Of specific importance:
 - **Thalassemia (Cooley's Anemia)** gene-editing research programs at **NHLBI** (Division of Blood Diseases Resources) & **NIDDK** (Kidney, Urologic, & Hematologic (KUH) Diseases Division); and cancer research at **NCI**.
- **Domestic Violence Programs**: FY20 Asks: Violence Against Women Act (**VAWA**) - \$582 million; Victims of Crime Act (**VOCA**) Crime Victims Fund – set cap at \$2.6 billion and without transfers to programs not authorized under VOCA.

Cultural

- **Back HCR26**: Call for the restoration of the Parthenon with the return of the Parthenon Marbles. The Parthenon is an important monument to our **American heritage** because it is a hallmark of Western Civilization and Democracy.

Veterans

- **Back S.98/H.R.238**: 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. **Maloney** or **Bilirakis** to join)
- Join the **Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus** (Contact Reps. **Costa** or **Olson** 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.