



The Daughters of Penelope'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 its 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**
 - **Passed! Thank You! S.2000/H.R.4129** | The U.S.-Greece Defense and Interparliamentary Partnership Act.
 - Protect Greece's sovereignty in the Aegean Sea, EEZ. Turkey's frequent provocative 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**
 - **H.R.3056** | 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.
 - Call for Turkish authorities to restore the status of Hagia Sophia—a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **End the 48-year illegal occupation of the Republic of Cyprus—a European Union member & U.S. Strategic Partner**
 - **H.Res.376** | Back a just, viable solution where all Cypriots can enjoy democratic values & human rights.
 - **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 & 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 sponsor **87 communities** spanning 19 states.
 - **FY23 Ask**: Expand the supply of affordable housing for the elderly: Support \$600 million for new 202 construction.
 - Enhance the Service Coordinator program to ensure all 202 communities have a service coordinator to provide residents the ability to age in place and live independently.
 - Strengthen gap financing: the bipartisan-backed Affordable Housing Tax Credit, a model public-private partnership.
- **Domestic Violence Programs**: The DOP is a national sponsor of two domestic violence centers. Thank you for passing the **VOCA** Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act and a reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (**VAWA**).
 - **FY23 Ask**: At minimum, the President's request of \$1 billion for VAWA programs and a Crime Victims Fund cap that is set at \$2.65 billion without any transfers to programs not authorized under the VOCA statute. Reauthorize and provide robust funding for Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (**FVPSA**) programs.
- **Foreign Aid FY23 Ask**: Support \$1.8 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)** research programs at **NHLBI** & **NIDDK**; and cancer research at **NCI**.
- **HHS/ACL**: Maximize funding for **Older Americans Act** programs, including nutrition services (i.e., Meals on Wheels).

Cultural

- **S.Res.675** | Commemorating AHEPA's 100th Anniversary.
- **H.Res.254** | 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.

Caucus Growth (House Only)

- Join the **Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues** (Contact Reps. Carolyn **Maloney** or Gus **Bilirakis** to join)
- Join the **Congressional Crime Solvers and Justice Caucus** (Contact Rep. Jim **Costa** to join)

The Daughters of Penelope's 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.daughtersofpenelope.org, or contact Andrew Kaffes at Andrew@agkaffes.com.