



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

### International Relations/Foreign Policy

- **Strengthen the U.S. alliance with Greece – a trusted, reliable NATO ally – a pillar of democracy, stability**
  - Invest in the U.S.–Greece relations across all silos, especially in defense and security. Support F-35s to Greece.
  - Protect Greece's sovereignty. Turkey's frequent provocative violations must stop. Oppose F-16s and kits to Turkey.
  - 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.
  - Call for Turkish authorities to restore the status of Hagia Sophia—a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **End the 49-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 democratic values & human rights.
  - **CBM**: Call for the removal of 40,000 illegal Turkish occupation troops from Cyprus.
  - **H.Res.263** | Make the Cyprus issue a top foreign policy priority of the Administration.
  - U.S. policy affirms Cyprus' sovereign right to explore energy findings within its exclusive economic zone (EEZ).
  - Support Cyprus' entry into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (VWP)

### 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 nation's security:

- **HUD Section 202 Housing for Elderly Program**: AHEPA/DOP combined sponsor **87 communities** that span 19 states.
  - **FY24 Ask**: Expand the supply of affordable housing for the elderly: **Support** Senate's FY24 THUD appropriations bill.
  - Enhance the Service Coordinator program to ensure all 202 communities have a service coordinator to provide residents with the ability to age in place and live independently, thus saving taxpayer dollars.
  - **S.1557/H.R.3238** | Strengthen 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.
  - **FY24 Ask**: At minimum, the President's request of \$1.04 billion for VAWA programs and a Crime Victims Fund cap that is set at \$2 billion without any transfers to programs not authorized under the VOCA statute.
  - **H.R.2604** | Reauthorize and provide robust funding for Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (**FVPSA**) programs.
- **Foreign Aid FY24 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/Historical/Educational

- **H.Res.510** | 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.
- **S.1329/H.R.2803 | Armenian Genocide Education Act** | To direct the Librarian of Congress to carry out activities to support Armenian Genocide education programs (Armenian Genocide as defined in bill to include "Greeks.")

### Caucus Growth (House Only)

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

*The AHEPA family'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.ahepa.org](http://www.ahepa.org), [www.daughtersofpenelope.org](http://www.daughtersofpenelope.org), or contact Andrew Kaffes at [Andrew@agkaffes.com](mailto:Andrew@agkaffes.com).*