

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1337

To support efforts by the Department of State to strengthen the bilateral relationship with Greece.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. BERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To support efforts by the Department of State to strengthen the bilateral relationship with Greece.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The strong bilateral relationship between
6 Greece and the United States was established at the
7 very founding of both countries, and has continued
8 to the present day.

1 (2) The founding fathers of the United States,
2 many of whom read Greek political philosophy in its
3 original text, drew heavily on the political experience
4 and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming this
5 country's representative democracy.

6 (3) Greek Commander in Chief Petros
7 Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state,
8 said to the citizens of the United States in 1821
9 that "it is in your land that liberty has fixed her
10 abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our
11 ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we suc-
12 ceed in resembling you".

13 (4) The people of the United States generously
14 offered humanitarian assistance to the Greek people
15 during their struggle for independence, which the
16 Greek citizens finally was achieved on March 25,
17 1821.

18 (5) Greece stood with the United States and Al-
19 lied forces in World War II, suffering thousands of
20 casualties as they bravely fought to protect freedom
21 and democracy on numerous battlefields, as in the
22 historic Battle of Crete, which was the first major
23 setback for the Axis land war and set off a chain of
24 events that significantly affected the outcome of
25 World War II.

1 (6) Throughout the 20th century, Greece con-
2 tinued to be a key support to the United States, and
3 was one of a few countries that allied with the
4 United States in every major international conflict.

5 (7) During the war in Iraq, Greece immediately
6 granted unlimited access to its airspace and the base
7 in Souda Bay, and many ships of the United States
8 that delivered troops, cargo, and supplies to Iraq
9 were refueled in Greece.

10 (8) Greece shares similar goals with the United
11 States to promote peace and stability in the world,
12 and in that vein has been an active participant in
13 peacekeeping and peace-building operations con-
14 ducted by international organizations, including the
15 United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organi-
16 zation (NATO), the European Union (EU), and the
17 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Eu-
18 rope (OSCE).

19 (9) In an effort to further strengthen these
20 bonds of friendship and commerce between our coun-
21 tries, Greece was formally included as a full member
22 of the United States Visa Waiver Program on March
23 9, 2010.

24 (10) Achieving greater stability in the Medi-
25 terranean region is a key foreign policy goal of the

1 United States, which Greece supports in various
2 ways, including through its historic initiatives for
3 rapprochement with Turkey, through its support for
4 sanctions on Iran, and, most recently, through the
5 significant strengthening of bilateral relations with
6 Israel.

7 (11) Greece and the United States are at the
8 forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy,
9 peace, stability, and human rights, and those ideals
10 have forged a close bond between Greece and the
11 United States and their peoples.

12 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of Congress that the historic strong
14 ties of friendship between the United States and Greece,
15 which extend from the earliest foundations of the two
16 countries until the present day, have been and continue
17 to be invaluable to their growth, prosperity, and security.

18 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

19 It shall be the policy of the United States to pursue
20 measures to strengthen the important cultural, diplomatic,
21 and economic relations between the United States and
22 Greece.

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