

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Calin Popescu-Tariceanu
President of the Senate of Romania
Senatul Romaniei
Calea 13 Septembrie 1-3, Sector 5
050711 Bucuresti
Romania

The Honorable Liviu Dragnea
President of the Chamber of Deputies of
Romania
Palatul Parlamentului
Str. Izvor nr. 2-4, Sector 5
050563 Bucuresti
Romania

Dear President Tariceanu and President Dragnea:

As Members of the 115th Congress working to promote global LGBT equality, we present our best wishes to you as the New Year begins.

Since the 1989 revolution that removed former communist President Ceaucescu from power, Romania has made considerable progress in strengthening its democratic practices and institutions. We applaud that progress, and the parallel growth that has occurred in bilateral relations between our two countries.

We understand that the Romanian Parliament soon may take up the question of whether to authorize a referendum that may enshrine in the Romanian constitution a definition of family that would exclude gay and lesbian citizens from the rights and responsibilities embodied in civil marriage. We respectfully urge that such a referendum not be allowed to proceed.

Our country has also grappled with navigating the proper treatment of our LGBT citizens and their families. Ultimately, we have come to recognize that all families should be supported, regardless of whether the family is led by a same-sex couple or an opposite-sex couple. We also have come to understand equal marriage rights as falling under separate religious and civil purview – the former sanctioned by religious authorities, and the latter under authority of civilians charged with preserving equal treatment under the law.

Along with many of Romania's western partners, the United States has recognized, through its judiciary, that our country is stronger when marriage is conditioned on mutual love and commitment, and when the rights, benefits and responsibilities of civil marriage attach equally to all persons who make that commitment. We also recognize that violence and further discrimination follows any instances of inequality. We urge that Romanian authorities take no step that would divide your country from its partners in this recognition and to be wary of any ensuing violence that may occur.

We take this opportunity to wish you and the Romanian people a successful and prosperous new year, one in which relations between our two countries will continue to grow and flourish.

Sincerely,



ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



DAVID CICILLINE
Member of Congress



SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress



MARK POCAN
Member of Congress



JARED POLIS
Member of Congress



KRISTEN SINEMA
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



TED DEUTCH
Member of Congress



RUBEN GALLEGO
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



TED LIEU
Member of Congress



JEROLD NADLER
Member of Congress



MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress



ADAM SCHIFF
Member of Congress



NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGAN
Member of Congress



JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress

STILLS

Katherine M. Clark
KATHERINE CLARK
Member of Congress

Joe Crowley
JOE CROWLEY
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty
ELIZABETH ESTY
Member of Congress

Al Green
AL GREEN
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress

William Keating
WILLIAM KEATING
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
RO KHANNA
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
DEREK KILMER
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross
DONALD NORCROSS
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.
FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress

STUDY

David Price

DAVID PRICE
Member of Congress

JAN SCHAKOWSKY

JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter

LOUISE SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier

JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress

Dina Titus

DINA TITUS
Member of Congress

Tim Walle

TIM WALLE
Member of Congress

cc:

- The Honorable Raissa Turcan, President *ad interim*, National Liberal Party
- The Honorable Dan, President, Save Romania Union
- The Honorable Keleman Hunor, President, Hungarian Democratic Union in Romania
- The Honorable Traian Basescu, Former President of Romania and President, People's Movement Party
- The Honorable Varujan Pambuccian, Leader, Parliamentary Group of National Minorities

STRIKES