

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1337

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

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## 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

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## 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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