

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 21, 2012

His Excellency Victor Orban
Prime Minister
Hungary
c/o Embassy of Hungary
3910 Shoemaker Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Prime Minister Orban:

As strong supporters of a strengthened U.S.-Hungary relationship, we have long sought to build upon the ties between our two countries. Hungarian immigrants to the United States have contributed significantly to American economic, political and cultural life, and many Hungarian-Americans retain ancestral links with Hungary. Moreover, Hungary holds a special place in the American imagination as one of the Central European states at the vanguard of fighting for freedom, independence and justice.

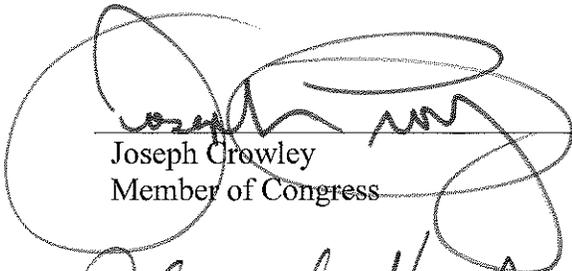
We are deeply concerned, however, by anti-Semitic and homophobic positions espoused by members of the Jobbik party. For example, Jobbik's presidential candidate, Krisztina Morvai, referred to Israeli Jews as "lice-infested, dirty murders" and warned Hungarian Jews that "your kind's time is over." The Jobbik magazine implied there is truth to the myth that Jews used Christian blood in religious rites, and Jobbik introduced a bill in parliament referring to homosexuality as a perversion and calling for the imprisonment of those who "promote" homosexuality. Further, Jobbik has attacked the employers of those who may be gay, calling for the ouster of Robert Alfoldi, the director of the National Theater, based on his presumed homosexuality. These statements take place against a backdrop of broader problems of intolerance and discrimination against Roma, migrants and others.

These positions have no place in civilized discourse and must not be allowed to go unchallenged, particularly in light of reports by the U.S. Department of State and the Anti-Defamation League that anti-Semitic rhetoric is increasing in Hungary.

We understand that there has been an agreement reached to set up a parliamentary ethics committee to address hate speech in the parliament itself. It is vital that Hungary's leaders use their authority to speak out against anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry to send a clear message that intolerance is an affront to the decency of the people of Hungary.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

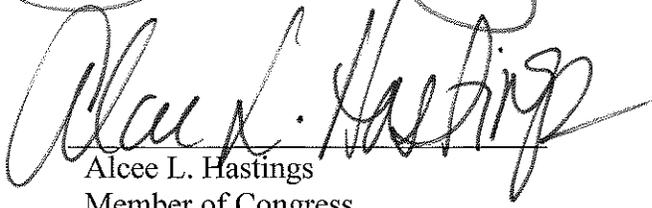
Sincerely,



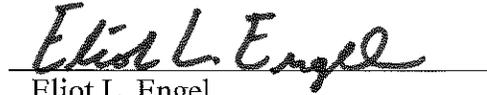
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress



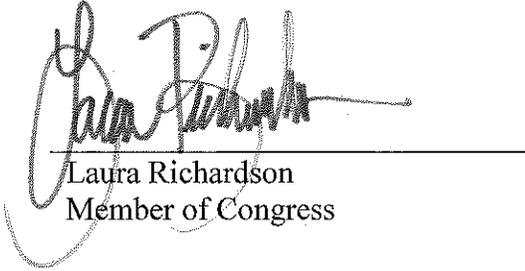
Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



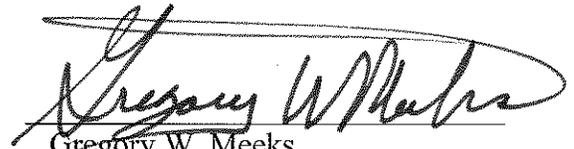
Laura Richardson
Member of Congress



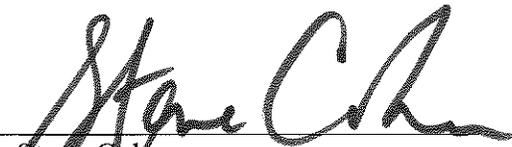
Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



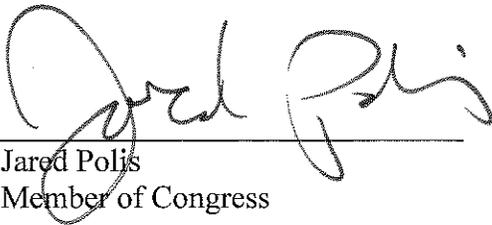
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



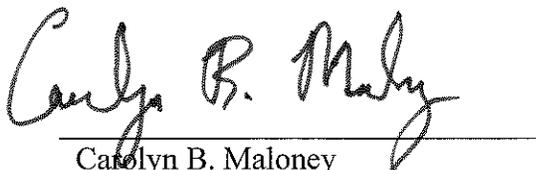
Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress



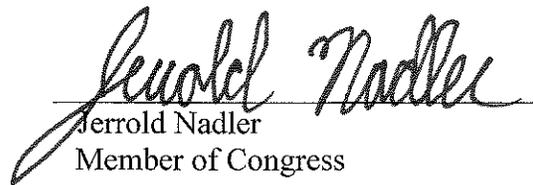
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



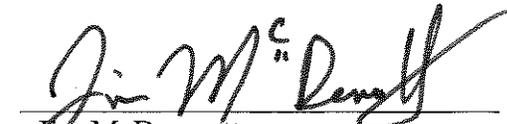
Steve Israel
Member of Congress

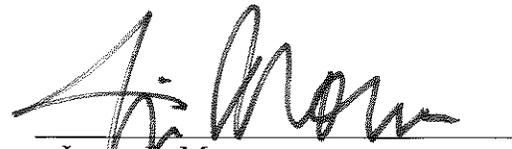


Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

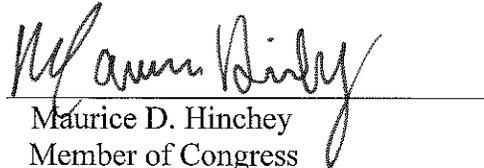


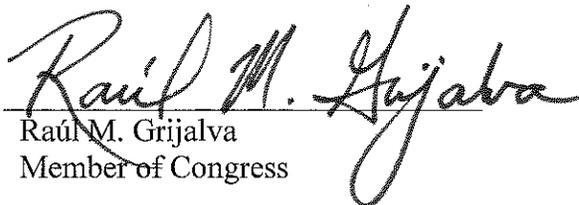
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

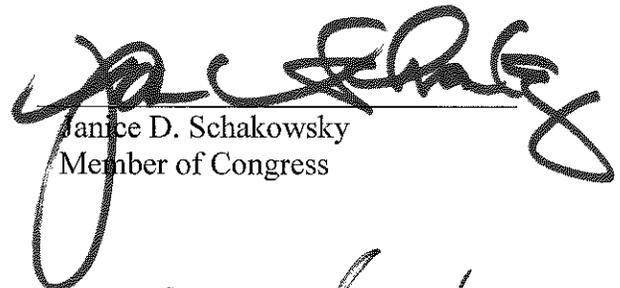

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

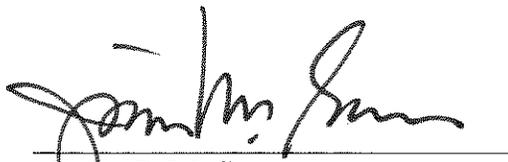

James P. Moran
Member of Congress


Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress


Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress


Barney Frank
Member of Congress

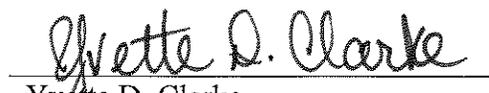

Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress


Bob Filner
Member of Congress


Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

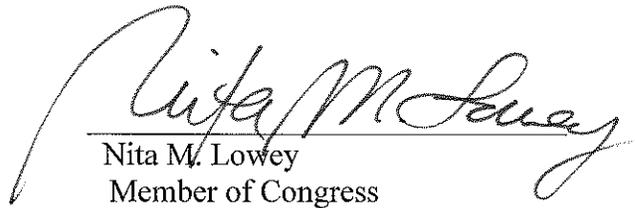

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress


Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress

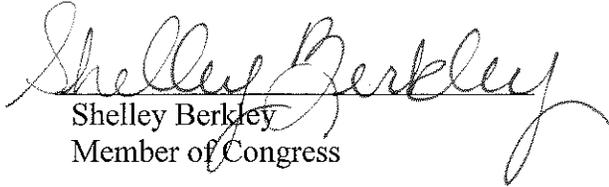

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



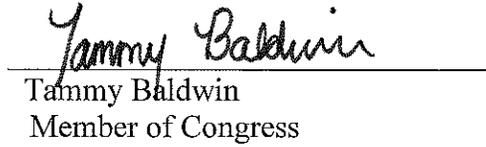
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress



Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



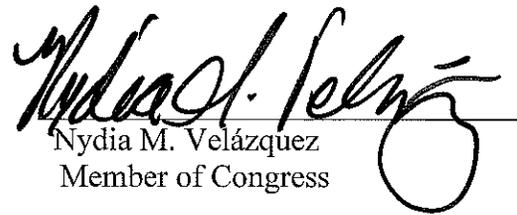
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



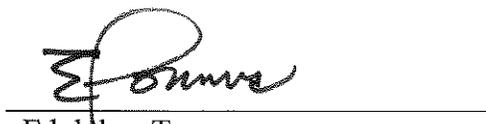
Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



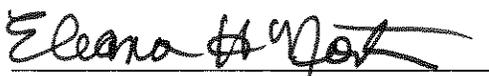
Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress



Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell Jr.
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



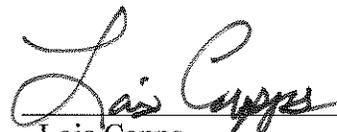
Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress



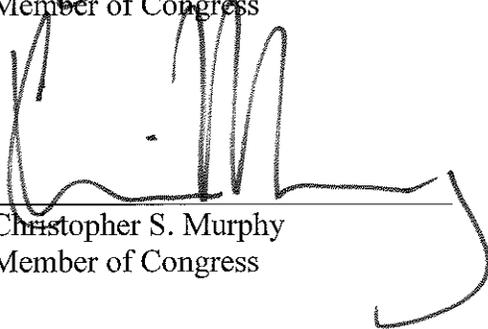
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Christopher S. Murphy
Member of Congress



William L. Owens
Member of Congress