



The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart Chairman
Subcommittee - National Security and
Department of State, and Related Programs
(formerly SFOPS)
House Committee on Appropriations United
States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State,
Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lois Frankel Ranking
Member
Subcommittee - National Security and
Department of State, and Related Programs
(formerly SFOPS)
House Committee on Appropriations United
States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 13, 2026

Dear Senate Chairman Graham, House Chairman Diaz-Balart, Senate Ranking Member Schatz, and House Ranking Member Frankel:

We write to respectfully request the Senate State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, and House National Security and Department of State, and Related Programs Subcommittees provide a supplemental increase of \$4,000,000 to the base funding levels of the U.S. Helsinki Commission for FY27 in order to host the 2027 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) Annual Session in Charleston, South Carolina. This will enable the Commission to organize all necessary arrangements for hosting this major international meeting. We request that U.S. Helsinki Commission base funding levels be maintained at \$3,059,000 and representational funds at \$6,000 consistent with the Senate and House bills for FY26. This brings the total request to \$7,059,000 for FY27.

The OSCE PA has graciously agreed to host its 2027 annual session in Charleston. The last annual session held in the USA was in 2005. The annual session is the OSCE PA's largest event and will bring over 300 legislators and over 200 support staff from 57 countries to Charleston to draft and vote on the resolutions of the PA. This is an opportunity to ensure American leadership in Europe and Eurasia. These tax dollars will be reinvested into the United States as well as reinforce the U.S. commitment to an American-led world order that supports our national interest. Helsinki Commissioners

just participated in the Vienna OSCE PA Winter Meeting in February, and our international colleagues were enthusiastic about the prospect of coming to the United States and seeing a side of our country beyond the beltway. The event will take place July 5-10, 2027, with a setup period in the city from July 2-4.

As the U.S. Helsinki Commission marks its 50th year, it remains a distinguished voice in championing freedom, the rule of law, and regional stability across Europe and Eurasia, a critical region for U.S. interests. While the Commission's primary mission continues to be monitoring compliance with the Helsinki Accords, its role has evolved from being a watchdog to providing legislative leadership. The Commission has developed and proposes impactful, bipartisan legislation that addresses current and emerging security threats across the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) region. The Commission remains committed to comprehensive security and holding the OSCE's 57-member states accountable for their commitments to sovereignty, human rights, and economic development. Its work offers a unique forum for promoting these values in a part of the world with growing challenges, such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine, energy security and economic investment concerns, growing authoritarianism in the country of Georgia, and significant source and destination countries for human trafficking. The Commission has focused on Vladimir Putin's ongoing war against Ukraine which threatens our NATO Allies and has brought large-scale death, atrocities, and war crimes to Europe. The Commission's workload continues to grow at a time when U.S. leadership in transatlantic relations is more important than ever.

This bicameral, bipartisan Commission maintains a small but highly specialized professional staff which provides our government with regional and functional expertise encompassing Europe and Eurasia, as well as a comprehensive thematic mandate.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let us know if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



William R. Timmons, IV
Member of Congress



Russell Fry
Member of Congress



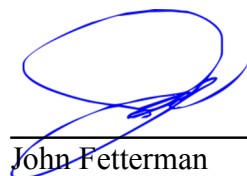
Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



John Fetterman
United States Senator



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Tim Scott
United States Senator