

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Bipartisan Co-Chairs of the Congressional Moldova, Romania, and Baltic Caucuses Issue Statement on September 28th Moldovan Elections

On Sunday, September 28th, Moldova will hold their parliamentary elections. The Chairs of the Moldova, Romania, and Baltic Caucuses of the United States House of Representatives stand united in the hope that these elections will remain free, fair, and devoid of foreign influence.

Moldova declared independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, and has since been a shining example of democracy along NATO's Eastern Flank. Ensuring this election is conducted freely, that the votes are counted transparently, and that the results are accepted peacefully by all actors will be crucial for Moldova's democratic future.

We in the United States know all too well that foreign adversaries will make efforts to undermine, influence, and disrupt free and fair elections. Already, Moldovan authorities have arrested more than 70 people as part of an investigation into an alleged Russia-backed plan to incite mass riots and country-wide destabilization surrounding this pivotal election.

Democracy is hard, but delivering the will of the people is an important pillar in the fight for a stronger, more peaceful and prosperous world. We celebrate all efforts made in Eastern Europe and all around the world to face head on the challenges of democracy, and we wish the best of luck to all those running.

Sincerely,



Michael V. Lawler (R-NY)
Moldova Caucus Co-Chair




Deborah Ross (D-NC)
Moldova Caucus Co-Chair



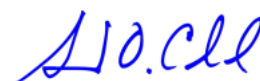
Michael Turner (R-OH)
Romania Caucus Co-Chair



Thomas R. Suozzi (D-NY)
Romania Caucus Co-Chair



Don Bacon (R-NE)
Baltic Caucus Co-Chair



Salud Carbajal (D-CA)
Baltic Caucus Co-Chair