

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We condemn and write with extreme concern regarding the anti-democratic actions of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban who has used corruption, influence peddling, and malign acts to crack down on the LGBTQ community in Hungary. We strongly urge you to raise significant concerns with your counterparts in Orban's government regarding the March 18 law and April 14 constitutional amendment which undermine the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly of the LGBTQ community and their allies, violate the human and civil rights of Hungarians, and continue Hungary down a path of de-democratization which threatens the transatlantic alliance and the international democratic community.

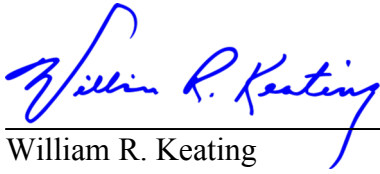
Hungary is a country with a proud history and a proud people. Since the fall of communism in 1989, Hungary took a pro-European path joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1999 and the European Union in 2004. Unfortunately, since the election of the Fidesz party in 2010, Prime Minister Viktor Orban has taken Hungary in a decidedly authoritarian direction pushing Hungary's traditional allies of America and Europe aside in favor of closer relations with Beijing and Moscow. Coupled with Hungary's closer bilateral relations with China and Russia, Orban has led a systematic and organized crackdown on dissent, free speech and expression, free assembly, and the human and civil rights of all Hungarians.

On March 18, Prime Minister Orban hurried the passage of a new, restrictive anti-LGBTQ law through the Hungarian Parliament which bans Pride marches in Hungary and builds upon Hungary's 2021 anti-LGBTQ "propaganda" law—which targets and limits discussions and portrayals of LGBTQ people in media and schools. Equally concerning is the legislation's permissive use of facial recognition software as prima facie evidence in identifying those in violation of the new law. Then, on April 14, Hungary's parliament passed a constitutional amendment codifying the law and further enshrining discrimination against LGBTQ people. In response, thousands of Hungarians have protested the new law in the streets and made clear their disagreement with this new legislation, which is more reminiscent of similar restrictions against sexual minorities in Russia than any legislation in accordance with European Union values protecting the rights and civil liberties of Hungarians.

As a U.S. Senator, you were a strong opponent of the erosion of democracy and rule of law in Hungary. In fact, in 2019, you wrote to then-President Trump saying that "Under Orban, the election process has become less competitive and the judiciary is increasingly controlled by the state." These are strong words which resonate today as Orban continues to move Hungary away from the principles of rule of law and freedom of expression.

As a NATO ally which hosts U.S. service members, we expect the Hungarian government to abide by certain values which underpin the historic U.S.-Hungary bilateral relationship. Unfortunately, this new legislation and constitutional amendment disproportionately and arbitrarily target sexual and gender minorities. Along with years of democratic backsliding in Hungary, it flies in the face of those values and the passage of this legislation deserves quick and decisive criticism and action in response by the Department of State. Therefore, we strongly urge you to publicly condemn this legislation and constitutional change which targets the LGBTQ community and undermines the rights of Hungarians to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Sincerely,



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William R. Keating  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Europe



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



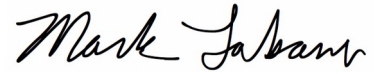
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Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



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Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



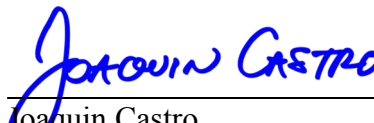
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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



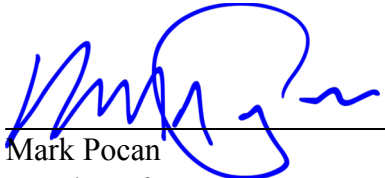
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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



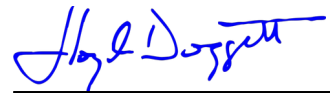
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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



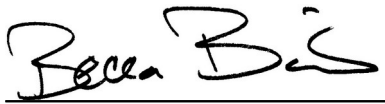
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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress




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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



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Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress




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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress




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Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



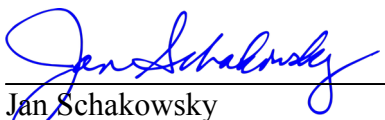
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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress