

WASHINGTON (9 Oct.) -- On Tuesday, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution, H. Res. 405, authored by Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis (R-Fla.) supporting the implementation of a United Nations-brokered agreement toward the reunification of Cyprus.

“Today’s passage of H. Res. 405 demonstrates this body’s commitment to the implementation of the July 8 agreement as a means of achieving the ultimate goal of a unified Cyprus,” said Bilirakis, a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues. “As a valued friend and ally of the United States, it is the hope of this body that the July 8 framework be utilized to work out differences in order for Cyprus to once again enjoy a peaceful and sovereign existence.”

On July 8, 2006, Republic of Cyprus President Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat agreed to a UN-sponsored framework establishing a set of principles for the Greek and Turkish Cypriots to find common ground and ensure a lasting peace and eventual reunification.

H. Res. 405 acknowledges the key terms of the July 8, 2006 agreement, particularly the formation of a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation with territory allocated to the Greek and Turkish communities within a united Cyprus.