

**May 11, 2007**

**WASHINGTON** - On Thursday, the House Republican Conference appointed U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Some of the Committee's jurisdiction includes U.S. relations with foreign countries, international economic policy, protecting American citizens abroad as well as handling U.S. foreign intervention and declarations of war. Congressman Bilirakis's new committee assignment will also give him significant oversight responsibilities that include the United Nations, global warming, human rights issues and foreign aid programs.

The Committee's Republican leader, **Ranking Member Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)**, expressed strong confidence in Bilirakis's elevation to the committee post. "I am elated to hear of Gus's appointment to the Foreign Affairs Committee. His leadership in foreign policy and national security will be an asset to our work," said Ranking Member Ros-Lehtinen. "His bipartisan approach to solving complex issues will make Gus a crucial member of our Committee."

Congressman Bilirakis is one of only a handful of Freshman Members of the House of Representatives to be named to three full committees. Bilirakis also holds key committee seats on the House Homeland Security and Veterans' Affairs Committees.

"In his short time in Congress, Gus has established himself as one of the most hard-working members of the Freshman class," said **Republican Whip Roy Blunt (R-MO)**. "Gus's appointment to the Foreign Affairs Committee - his third Committee assignment - reflects this strong work ethic and his dedication to his constituents and our nation. I look forward to his continued leadership in the House of Representatives."

Congressman Bilirakis will be assigned to the Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Europe and the Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia.

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