Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 19, 2016

Andrian Candu, Speaker of the Parliament
Republica Moldova,
MD-2073, m. Chișinău, Bd.
Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt 162

Dear Speaker Candu:

We write to express our profound concern about the recent advancement in the Moldovan Parliament of anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) legislation that threatens human rights and Moldova's democratic values. The bill was approved by the Parliamentary Committees on Agriculture and Food Industry, on Culture, Education, Science, Youth and Sports, and on Human Rights and Interethnic Relations in May 2016. If this legislation is enacted, it would target marginalized communities and erode basic freedoms guaranteed in the Moldovan Constitution.

The legislation under consideration emulates Russia's 2013 propaganda law and would levy fines for spreading "propaganda of homosexual relations among minors" through the internet, mass media, assemblies, and in other ways. The legislation would violate Moldova's constitution, which in Article 32 states that "every citizen shall be guaranteed the freedom of thought and opinion, as well as the freedom of expression in public by way of word, image or any other means possible."

Moldova has already made great democratic, constitutional, and economic advancements. In 2013, your country took an important stand for human rights and basic freedoms when it overturned a similar anti-LGBT propaganda law. The United States values its relationship with Moldova and hopes to continue strengthening this relationship. The current legislation runs counter to the protection of fundamental human rights, which is the cornerstone of American democracy and our relations with foreign countries.

Here in the United States, the path to equality has been a long road, and as last month's tragic events in Orlando illustrate, we continue our struggle toward full equality and justice for all of our own citizens. We are committed to helping secure the human rights of marginalized communities here at home and partnering with governments and civil society abroad in achieving equality around the world. Laws that discriminate and violate human rights threaten the fabric of our global community. We respectfully urge you to prevent further advancement of the anti-LGBT propaganda legislation, and to stand for equality, justice, and democracy for all citizens.

Sincerely,

Alan Lowenthal

ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress

MARK POCAN
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress

HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON Jr.
Member of Congress

ALAN GRAYSON
Member of Congress

ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress

MARK DeSAULNIER
Member of Congress

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress

JOHN CONYERS, Jr.
Member of Congress

MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress

JIM McDERMOTT
Member of Congress

WILLIAM R. KEATING
Member of Congress

LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ
Member of Congress

JAMES P. McGOVERN
Member of Congress

JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress

RICHARD HANNA
Member of Congress

DONALD NORCROSS
Member of Congress

DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress

RUBÉN HINOJOSA
Member of Congress

JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

DAN KILDEE
Member of Congress

MICHAEL M. HONDA
Member of Congress