



**TURKISH AMERICAN COALITION
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE
QUARTERLY REPORT
Q1 2025**



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CONGRESSMAN PETE SESSIONS TEXAS DISTRICT 17



Turkish Americans have met and had a very effective exchange of views with Congressman Pete Sessions from Texas. His passion for improving relations between the USA and Türkiye is admirable! He is a fighter for American rights and values. He also understands what a valuable ally Türkiye is.

- Escalating costs and rising expenses in daily life.
- Inflationary pressures are being felt across various sectors, including housing, transportation, and food.
- The recent surge in unauthorized border crossings has put a strain on local resources.
- Finding a balance between maintaining border security and addressing humanitarian concerns is crucial for developing effective immigration policies, including an expedited and easier sponsorship process to add them into the workforce effectively and safely.



CONGRESSMAN PAT HARRIGAN NORTH CAROLINA DISTRICT 10



Rep. Harrigan has a deep understanding of Turkish Americans' interests in the region.

He sees Türkiye as a great asset and is dedicated to working tirelessly to promote bilateral understanding.

- A group of Turkish Americans from different states congratulated him on his election and discussed the issues listed below.
- Not mandating a set minimum wage amount throughout the US. Leaving that decision to the states.
- The Congressman noted that the relationship between Türkiye and the USA is built on shared mutual respect and a commitment to cooperation.
- The Congressman stressed that Türkiye is a critical ally for the United States, given its unique position bridging Europe and the Middle East.
- The congressman highlighted how surging international demand for critical raw materials is straining supply chains and impacting the defense industry.
- The US Government must promote legal pathways for immigration while also taking measures to prevent unauthorized entry.



CONGRESSMAN LANCE GOODEN TEXAS DISTRICT 5

Congressman Lance Gooden has been a tireless advocate for Turkish-American relations, working to strengthen ties between the two nations. Turkish Americans congratulated Representative Gooden on his re-election. He has been serving in Congress since 2019.

Turkish Americans and Congressman Gooden have pledged to reconvene and continue working together to strengthen Turkish-American relations and foster greater understanding between the two nations.



CONGRESSMAN STEVE COHEN TENNESSEE DISTRICT 9



Steve Cohen has been serving as the U.S. representative from Tennessee's 9th congressional district since 2007. He is the only Congress member of Turkish descent.

Cohen is Tennessee's first Jewish congressman. Since 2023, Cohen has been the only Democrat in Tennessee's congressional delegation.



CONGRESSMAN JAKE AUCHINCLOSS MASSACHUSETTS DISTRICT 4



Congressman Jake Auchincloss and Turkish Americans in the New England region got together and talked about the issues listed below;

- Illegal Immigration
- Housing Problems
- Closed Armenian Archives located in his district Newton, Massachusetts
- Economy



CONGRESSMAN PETE SESSIONS TEXAS DISTRICT 17

Day 1



Texas Congressman Pete Sessions visited Boston, Massachusetts, and got together with 45 Turkish American entrepreneurs, business owners, professors, investors, lawyers, and doctors.

It was a delightful visit. Turkish Americans in New England from CT, RI, NH, and MA had a chance to talk about their concerns such as the economy, politics, immigration, foreign relations, visa issues in Türkiye, and many more domestic matters.



Congressman Sessions has been a staunch supporter of Türkiye and fully appreciates its importance as an ally in the critical region of the world.

He is aware of both sides of the issues in the Caucasus and Cyprus, is well-informed about ethnic interactions, and has a balanced view.

He is currently the co-chair of DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency) and works closely with President Trump and Elon Musk.



Day 2

Congressman Sessions visited 4 Turkish American-owned businesses in Massachusetts.







Congressman Sessions Recorded a video in one of these businesses and sent that video to President Donald J. Trump, praising Turkish Americans and our contribution to the USA.

CONGRESSMAN ABRAHAM HAMADEH ARIZONA DISTRICT 8



We had the opportunity to come together with newly elected Representative Abraham Hamadeh to discuss issues of significance to our community in Arizona. We look forward to maintaining an open dialogue on matters that advance the principle of putting America first, prioritizing the interests of American and strengthening the nation's security and improving Turkish American relations in the region. The congressman's parents are from Syria.



CONGRESSMAN GABE AMO RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT 1



Rhode Island (RI) Turkish Americans met with Congressman Gabe Amo. Representative Amo, recently elected to Congress, is on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, focusing on Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. Discussions centered on topics that concern everyone, such as inflation, healthcare, and small business issues.

Congressman Amo enjoyed the Turkish tea and the pleasant exchanges. In the spring, the RI group plans to visit his office in Washington. Building good relations with Congressional members representing the Turkish American communities throughout the U.S. is crucial for good communication.

The RI Turkish American community has not interacted much with its legislators in the past, so this is a very encouraging development.



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CONGRESSMAN LANCE GOODEN TEXAS DISTRICT 5

Group of Turkish Americans have met with Congressman Gooden again as a group and as a Chairman Melih Bektas himself again to keep the relationship closer with Lance Gooden. In one year our group met him four (4) times.



CONGRESSMAN AUGUST PFLUGER TEXAS DISTRICT 11

Chairman Melih Bektas has joined the NRCC (National Republican Congressional Committee) in Florida and have met with Congressman August Pfluger.

- He was a F-22 Raptor pilot in various regions and currently the Chairman of RSC (Republican Study Committee) which has 147 members of the Congress.



CONGRESSMAN JOE WILSON SOUTH CAROLINA DISTRICT 2

Congressman Joe Wilson (SC-2) is a senior member of the US Congress. He also serves in House Foreign Affairs and Armed Services committees and co-chair of the Turkiye Caucus. He is very familiar with Turkiye's role in NATO in that volatile region, with the second-largest army in NATO. He supports and values the good relations between the two countries.



Chairman Bektas had plenty of time to get together with a senior Congressman Joe Wilson on different occasions. He introduced Melih Bektas to Speaker of the House Mike Johnson. Chairman Bektas and speaker Johnson had a fruitful sincere conversations in NRCC meetings in Florida.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE ELLEN REED NEW HAMPSHIRE

Chairman Bektas and Turkish Americans have met with the New Hampshire State Representative Ellen Reed, and had her removed the so-called “Armenian genocide” word from the resolution, and gave related books to her for further education. It was a very successful move for Turkish Americans.



CONGRESSMAN AARON BEAN FLORIDA DISTRICT 4



Had a productive meeting with Florida Congressman Aaron Bean, Co-Chair of the DOGE Caucus. The group discussed the critical importance of maintaining a strong and strategic relationship between two strong NATO allies, the US and the Republic of Türkiye, especially given the ongoing instability in key region. Our group also touched on shared security interests, regional cooperation, and the value of continued U.S.-Türkiye dialogue.

Chairman Bektas have met with Congressman Aaron Bean before in his district. Aaron Bean is open for dialogue as it was mentioned and invited to Turkish American Caucus.



CONGRESSMAN ZACH NUNN IOWA DISTRICT 3



TAC PAC Chairman Melih Bektas and DATUB USA President Shuhrat Temirov have met with congressman Zach Nunn in Washington, DC very recently.

Zach served for almost two decades in the United States Air Force. As an airborne intelligence officer, Zach flew recon missions off the coasts of Russia and China. We as Turkish Americans have a very warm relation with Congressman Zach Nunn. Chairman Bektas have met and talked with Congressman Nunn on multiple occasions. We are looking forward for events in Chicago and Iowa in the near future for further closer relations.

- He is also on National Security subcommittee.



Congressman Zach Nun & TAC PAC Chairman Melih Bektas

CONGRESSMAN RYAN ZINKE MONTANA DISTRICT 1



Turkish Americans met for an hour with Congressman Ryan Zinke a member of the Subcommittee on Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, for an hour to discuss top priority issues related to the US and Turkiye. Congressman Zinke supports Turkiye's concerns about the ongoing Syria border terrorism problems and thinks there may be a political resolution to the problem with the new administration. Congressman Zinke praised the Turkish military's discipline and strength, which he witnessed during his contacts with them. We thank the Congressman for his honest assessment, and advice on the US-Turkiye relations, and for his warm and friendly attitude during the meeting. In our meeting, he has been invited to the TRNC. He said, yes.



CONGRESSMAN TONY GONZALES TEXAS DISTRICT 23



Turkish Americans had a meeting with Congressman Tony Gonzales, who serves on the House Appropriations and Homeland Security committees. The issues discussed were border security, a problem for both countries, and Türkiye's geographical location and military role in NATO. Even though his focus is the Pacific, Congressman Gonzales showed much interest in getting to know Türkiye better, understanding regional politics, and visiting the country, which indicated the increasing political and military importance of Türkiye in international affairs. He wants to visit Türkiye and might join the Turkish American Caucus.





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