

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 11, 2017

His Excellency Viktor Orbán  
Prime Minister of Hungary  
1357 Budapest, Pf. 6.  
Hungary

Dear Prime Minister Orbán,

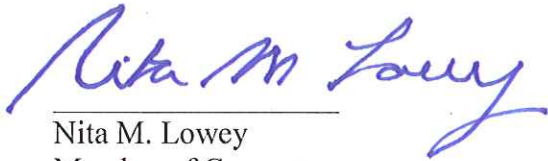
As members of the House of Representatives, we are deeply concerned by the Hungarian Parliament's swift passage this week of legislation against foreign universities that would result in the closure of the Central European University (CEU), an interdisciplinary graduate-level university in Budapest. We oppose any efforts to compromise the operations or independence of CEU and believe such efforts would harm Hungarian higher education and impact bilateral relations between our two countries.

CEU, chartered in New York State and accredited in the United States and Hungary, is one of the top 200 universities in the world. With 1,440 students from over 100 countries, CEU has "strengthened Hungary's influence and leadership in the region through its academic excellence and many contributions to independent, critical thinking," according to the U.S. State Department in their March 31, 2017 statement against this legislation. CEU should be lauded, not punished, for expanding Hungary's bilateral ties with the U.S. and countries around the world.

Your actions extend beyond CEU's ability to continue operations and threaten academic freedom throughout Hungary, which would directly impact numerous other American-affiliated universities operating in your country. With international attention focused on Hungary as a result of this policy, closure of CEU would send a dangerous message regarding Hungary's views on academic autonomy and the freedom of higher education institutions.

We urge you to reconsider your plans to move forward with this legislation. CEU is an institution of academic excellence that enjoys broad bipartisan support in the U.S. We hope you will allow CEU to continue operating in Hungary, benefiting its thousands of students and the U.S.-Hungary relationship.

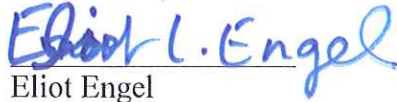
Sincerely,



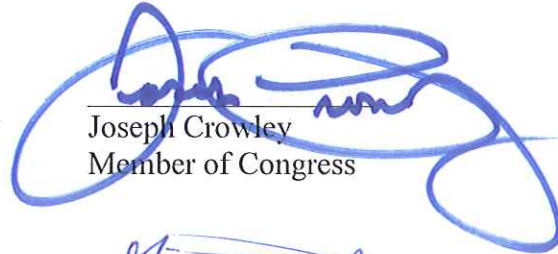
Nita M. Lowey  
Member of Congress



Peter King  
Member of Congress



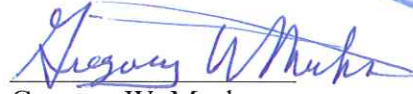
Eliot Engel  
Member of Congress



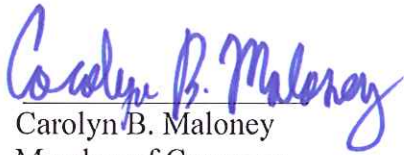
Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



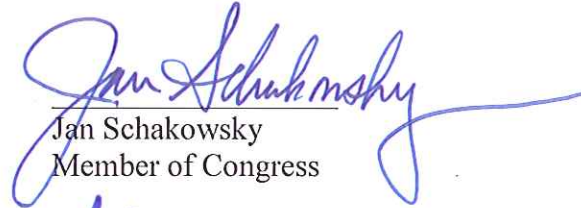
José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



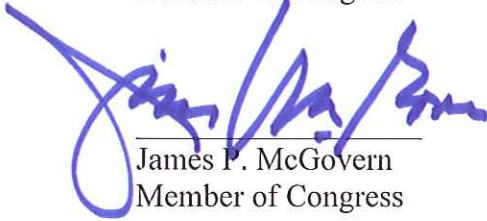
Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress