



State of New Hampshire

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCORD

34 Swett Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Ambassador Szabolcs Takács
Embassy of Hungary
3910 Shoemaker Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20008

Aug. 9, 2021

Dear Ambassador Takács,

Congratulations on your new recent assignment as the Hungarian ambassador to the United States of America. In your new role, you are probably aware of some of the criticism addressed to the Hungarian government regarding its role in protecting the civil and human rights of the residents of Hungary. This criticism is not coming only from sources in the USA but also from many other countries, including the European Union (of which Hungary is a member)

Hungary can be proud of its very impressive record of historical survival including the era of the Hapsburgs, the Nazi era and the subsequent era under Soviet Communism and finally a democratic government. And Hungarians, as a people, have shown themselves to be highly accomplished and talented (scientists, doctors and athletes). However, at the same time Hungary as a nation has for too long been isolated from worldwide changes that have expanded both human rights and opportunities in society for people who have been neglected in the past.

As the sponsor of resolution HCR 5 concerning these issues, I want to inform you that the New Hampshire House of Representatives and the New Hampshire Senate both overwhelmingly passed HCR 5, expressing its concerns. Such resolutions in the New Hampshire legislature are very rare, and usually do not have the needed 2/3 vote to even be considered. That this resolution received such strong support underscores the fact, that at least in New Hampshire the concerns mentioned in the resolution are widely shared. I am including a copy of the resolution for your consideration. However, please allow me to highlight some of the issues addressed in it. According to numerous media reports, the Hungarian government has encouraged efforts to shut down opposition media outlets and harass the work of NGOs, businesses and journalists who are not supportive of the government. In addition, the European Union has highlighted a number of violations of the EU laws regarding an independent judiciary, and the protection of various maritized groups within Hungarian society.

As a signatory to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as numerous international laws, and your country's obligations to European Union's civil and human rights laws, I would request that you forward resolution HCR 5 to your government, and would respectfully ask you for a response from that government confirming they are working to comply with those laws.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Somssich".

Rep. Peter Somssich, Ranking Democratic Member
House Science Technology & Energy Committee, Rockingham, District 27 /Portsmouth
tel. 603-436-5382, staterep27nh@gmail.com

CC: Senator Shaheen, Senator Hassan, Congresswoman Kuster, Congressman Pappas