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**PRESS RELEASE BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**

***Ambassador Xuereb Delivers Speaker's Message at Launch of Friends of Malta Group Caucus in the United States Congress***

The Ambassador of Malta to the United States, H.E. Dr Godfrey Xuereb, delivered a message on behalf of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malta, the Hon. Carmelo Abela, on the occasion of the official launch of the Friends of Malta Group Caucus in the United States Congress, describing the initiative as a historic milestone in Malta–United States relations.

In the message, Speaker Abela expressed his sincere appreciation to Congressman Don Beyer and Congressman Joe Wilson for their leadership and commitment in establishing the Caucus, noting that the initiative reflects the strong friendship, shared values, and longstanding partnership between Malta and the United States.

The Speaker highlighted the growing importance of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening international relations and fostering closer cooperation between elected representatives. He noted that the Caucus will provide an important platform for dialogue and collaboration between Members of the United States Congress and Members of the Maltese Parliament on issues of mutual interest.

He also stressed the importance of the strong people-to-people ties that have long underpinned the Malta/USA relations and, note that the vibrant Maltese Community in the United States of America together with sustained academic, cultural and educational exchanges, continues to foster mutual understanding and strengthen the enduring friendship between the two countries.

Speaker Abela emphasised the significant potential for enhanced cooperation in areas including economic relations, innovation, education, maritime affairs, security, and the promotion of peace and stability. He also underlined the importance of parliamentary engagement in addressing global challenges through dialogue and international cooperation.

Describing the launch as the beginning of a new chapter in Malta–United States relations, Speaker Abela reaffirmed Malta's commitment to strengthening ties with the United States and expressed his confidence that the Friends of Malta Group Caucus will serve as a dynamic and productive forum for advancing bilateral relations in the years ahead.

The launch event was attended by members of Congress, diplomatic representatives, and distinguished guests from both Malta and the United States.