

## Endorsing the first "Mideast Christian" running for Congress to raise the community's global issues

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Dr Walid Phares endorsed the first candidate running as a Middle East Christian for a Congressional seat in Illinois.

During the annual celebration of the Cedars Revolution, attended by ten members of the US Congress, Democrats and Republicans, including the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the US House of Representatives Ed Royce, Dr Walid Phares endorsed the first candidate running as a Middle East Christian for a Congressional seat in Illinois. Phares encouraged Mrs Tonia Khouri and her husband Joe for that critical decision. He said "Many Middle East Americans have already engaged in public office races, a number of them including six Lebanese Americans and one Assyrian American, have already been elected to Congress and most are serving now. But Tonia is the first Lebanese American candidate running on an agenda that includes a clear demand that the Middle East Christian communities of America needs to be represented in the legislative branch and their global issues being addressed properly and coherently in US Foreign Policy. Our congratulations to Tonia Khouri and her family and our best wishes for her success." Phares added "we support the idea that Middle East Americans in general, not just Christians, but also Sunni, Shia, Druse or non affiliated with religious communities, but committed to a pluralist and democratic Middle East, engage in public service and run for office.

More information on Khoury's platform will be posted when available.

[ <http://toniakhouri.com/> ]