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June 27, 2019

The Honorable Andrea Villagrán
Congress of the Republic of Guatemala
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Dear Honorable Villagrán:

In furtherance of its partnership with the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala, the House Democracy Partnership (HDP) is pleased to invite you to visit Washington, D.C. to participate in a two-day Parliamentary Leadership Forum on July 16 and 17 focused on democratic renewal to combat shared threats to democracy. We also invite you to participate in bilateral meetings with peers in the U.S. Congress and government on July 18. The HDP program is organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and in partnership with the International Republican Institute (IRI). In addition to the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala, twenty HDP partner parliaments have been invited to participate in this high-level program.

With increasing global threats to democracy on the rise in recent years, democratic norms and principles in even the most robust liberal democracies can falter. This exchange will provide an opportunity for parliamentary leaders to explore ways in which HDP members can best collaborate to promote democratic renewal in a world where voter expectations are increasingly demanding a more urgent legislative response, especially where democracy is in retreat. The Leadership Forum will also enable legislative leadership to work collaboratively to strengthen parliaments' roles in reversing such trends while developing ways to advance and uphold democratic principles. The Forum will feature U.S. Congressional Leadership who will provide remarks on key issues, such as exercising the authority of the legislature, combating polarization, and instituting legislative transparency to increase citizen trust.

Please note that upon your acceptance of this invitation, NDI will book economy-class airline tickets and arrange hotel accommodations. NDI will also issue *per diem* to cover meal and incidental expenses, within USAID regulations. Participants may upgrade to business or first class airfare at their own or the parliament's expense. Should you accept our invitation, the point of contact in Guatemala will be NDI's Senior Resident Director Eduardo Núñez (enunez@ndi.org). The point of contact in Washington, D.C. will be Ms. Emma Yardley (eyardley@ndi.org). Your feedback on the content of the program is very important to us; therefore, please find attached to this letter a short survey that will help inform program themes. NDI is committed to providing access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities in program activities. Please contact Mr. Núñez with any reasonable accommodation needs.

We hope that you will accept our invitation and that we will have the opportunity to welcome you to the United States as part of this important exchange program.

Sincerely,

David Price
Chairman, HDP

Vern Buchanan
Co-Chair, HDP