Sireli Barekamner:

Please accept my warmest greetings as you gather for the Armenian Assembly of America’s National Gala. I am grateful for the opportunity to express my admiration for the outstanding work of the Armenian Assembly of America and Mrs. Annie Simonian Totah, for her dedicated and passionate work in both the Armenian and Jewish communities.

First, I would like to applaud the Armenian Assembly of America for their tireless efforts and advocacy in striving to deepen the relations between the United States and the Republic of Armenia. Since 1972, the Armenian Assembly of America has been a cornerstone for sustaining public awareness of Armenian issues.

Additionally, I am proud to acknowledge that the partnership between the United States and Republic of Armenia has yielded impressive results. Since Armenia’s independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, the collaborative efforts between both nations and support provided by the United States, have contributed to the development of democratic institutions and adaptation of a free-market economy in Armenia. In addition, during the recent events in Armenia, the people of Armenia have further endorsed these democratic values. It is my belief that some of Armenia’s impressive improvements can be attributed to the remarkable advocacy work from organizations such as the Armenian Assembly of America.

Since I entered public service, I have been a staunch supporter of Armenian issues. Every year in April, I stand with my Armenian friends to commemorate the Armenian genocide and urge for its proper recognition. I proudly represent countless New York Armenian-Americans in the United States Senate and salute their contributions not only to our great state but also to the United States of America.

Therefore, I am humbled and honored to join in spirit with everyone gathered here today to recognize the actions of the Armenian Assembly of America, here in the United States and in the Republic of Armenia. Thank you for your commitment and dedication in promoting democracy and representing the interests of Armenian-Americans. I know the Armenian Assembly of America will continue these efforts for many years to come. Best wishes for a wonderful evening.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator