

DAVID N. CICILLINE
1ST DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

2233 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4911
(202) 225-3290 (FAX)

1070 MAIN STREET, SUITE 300
PAWTUCKET, RI 02860
(401) 729-5600
(401) 729-5608 (FAX)



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC POLICY AND
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ANTITRUST, COMMERCIAL
AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM
AND HOMELAND SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EUROPE, EURASIA, ENERGY, AND
THE ENVIRONMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MIDDLE EAST,
NORTH AFRICA, AND INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND INVESTIGATIONS

Written Testimony of David N. Cicilline (RI-01)

Nagorno Karabakh Foreign Aid Statement

June 23, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, H-307
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, distinguished Members of the Committee:

As a longstanding advocate of Humanitarian Assistance and a strong supporter of de-mining in Nagorno Karabakh, I would like to encourage the House Appropriations Committee to include Fiscal Year 2021 funding for the life-saving humanitarian demining program managed by USAID in Nagorno Karabakh.

Unfortunately, the Trump Administration has sought to pull the plug on this investment in peace, which is supported on a bipartisan basis and administered very capably by the brave team at the HALO Trust. U.S. funding has been responsible for clearing over 60,000 landmines and explosive hazards and has transformed tens of thousands of acres of former minefields into land available for productive use and recreation. Just as importantly, our U.S. aid program has provided mine risk education to each student in Karabakh since 2003.

The Administration's opposition to de-mining Nagorno Karabakh is particularly troubling given that, while significant landmine contamination remains, the admirable aim of a landmine-free Nagorno Karabakh is finally within sight. It is wrong to leave this work unfinished and the

farmers, families, and children of Nagorno Karabakh needlessly at risk. Without a clear funding mandate in the FY21 budget, this program will end, the cost of which will, sadly, be paid in lives.

I respectfully ask the committee to include the following provisions in the foreign aid bill:

- **Of the funds appropriated by the Act, not less than \$1.5 million shall be made available to fund demining and landmine risk education programs in Nagorno Karabakh.**
- **I further request that the committee provide robust funding for Nagorno Karabakh based regional rehabilitation services for survivors of landmine injuries and individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David N. Cicilline". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a prominent flourish at the end.

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress