

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

September 16, 2019

Anthony Barsamian and Van Krikorian, Co-Chairs  
Armenian Assembly of America  
734 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Friends,

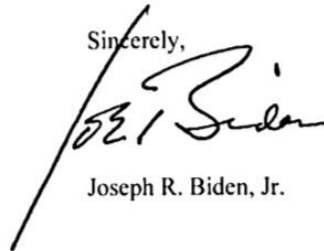
I'm proud to join the Armenian Assembly of America in honoring Congresswoman Jackie Speier's steadfast commitment to advancing U.S.-Armenian relations. Representative Speier has demonstrated incredible leadership in Congress on issues ranging from women's rights and national security to global human rights and the support of free and fair democracy. The people of California and the American people are fortunate to have her fighting for justice and equality at home and abroad—the world is truly better for it.

The United States must reaffirm, once and for all, our record on the Armenian Genocide. As a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, Congresswoman Speier has been an unfailing champion on this important issue. We must never forget or remain silent about this horrific and systematic campaign of extermination that resulted in the deaths of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children and the mass deportation of 2 million Armenians from their homes. If we do not fully acknowledge, commemorate, and teach our children about genocide, the words "never again" lose their meaning. The facts must be as clear and as powerful for future generations as for those whose memories are seared by tragedy. Failing to remember or acknowledge the fact of a genocide only paves the way for future mass atrocities.

At a time when democratic principles are under attack around the world and decades of progress are at risk, bold leadership in defense of our shared values and our shared vision for the future is more important than ever. I know the American people can trust you all to keep speaking out and fighting injustice wherever you find it.

Congratulations, Congresswoman Speier, and thank you all for your continued efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Biden". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. A long, thin vertical line is drawn to the left of the signature, extending from the top of the word "Sincerely," down to the bottom of the signature.

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

## United States Senate

September 16, 2019

Friends,

It is with great joy that I join the Armenian Assembly's 2019 National Advocacy Conference in congratulating my colleague Congresswoman Jackie Speier for her enduring commitment and support for the Armenian American community and U.S.-Armenian relations.

Jackie is a tenacious advocate who fights for what she believes in. I was honored to work with her in 2017 to introduce the ENOUGH Act, which will help give the government new tools to prosecute violations of intimate privacy that occur online. Jackie's pursuit of truth and justice is inspiring and I commend her tireless efforts to help us shed light on this important issue.



Jackie and I also understand the importance of recognizing the Armenian genocide. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of Senate Resolution 150, which ensures that American foreign policy appropriately reflects and acknowledges the horrors of the Armenian genocide. When it comes to crimes against humanity, we can never be silent – we must always speak uncomfortable truths about the past, lest we repeat it.

I also commend Jackie for her leadership in securing robust aid to help protect free and fair elections, the rule of law, and good governance across Armenia. Her efforts represent a powerful bipartisan consensus in Congress to affirm our shared democratic values with the people of Armenia. I am certain that with Jackie's continued leadership in Congress, we will only strengthen U.S.-Armenian relations moving forward and continue building a better future for our children and ourselves.

Congratulations again, Jackie, and warmest wishes to all attending this year's conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kamala D. Harris".

Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator