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July 10, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

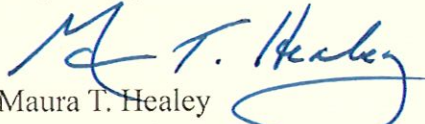
Dear President Biden,

Among many policy areas where I am grateful that we have already established robust partnership, the role your administration plays in reestablishing America's global leadership is one that matters to me as a Governor. To that end, and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as home to the second largest Armenian population in the United States, I write to express my deep concern with the months-long Azerbaijani blockade of the Lachin Corridor, the only road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) to the Republic of Armenia, and the worsening humanitarian crisis that has resulted. This blockade has been devastating to the Armenian population in the region, rendering 120,000 individuals without access to the route that provides much of Artsakh's food, medical supplies and transport, and other essential goods, and depriving them of their right to freedom of movement.

The overall efforts of the United States to support and facilitate a lasting peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan are of tantamount importance. Credible news reports, human rights organizations, and members of the Armenian American community are sounding the alarm about the risks of another Armenian Genocide. Azerbaijan's actions to further degrade already strained living conditions for the vulnerable Armenians living in Artsakh cannot be tolerated. Azerbaijan is obligated by the operative governing arrangements to guarantee the secure movement of citizens, vehicles, and cargo in both directions through the Lachin Corridor, as well as recent rulings by the International Court of Justice, and the violation of that obligation presents the risk of a worsening humanitarian crisis with tragic consequences. Action to resolve this, including through peace talks, cannot come soon enough.

I respectfully urge you to find any avenues possible to support the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, and continue forging ahead in our diplomatic efforts to lift the blockade. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has long recognized the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh since our House of Representatives passed a resolution on August 6, 2012. The Armenian American community is a vibrant and thriving part of our state. On their behalf – and on behalf of all the residents of Massachusetts – I ask that the Administration use all tools at its disposal to ensure the safety of the people of Artsakh, now and in the future, and ultimately to support peace for Armenia.

Very truly yours,


Maura T. Healey
Governor of Massachusetts

cc: Secretary Antony Blinken, U.S. Dept. of State