

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 2, 2022

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Chairwoman
Appropriations Subcommittee on State,
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hal Rodgers
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on State,
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris Coons
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on State,
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on State,
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Lee, Chairman Coons, Ranking Member Rodgers, and Ranking Member Graham:

We write to thank the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs for their longstanding support to the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh, also known as Nagorno Karabakh. In the face of Russia's naked aggression in the region, particularly with regard to its further invasion of Ukraine, it is imperative that we support other democratic allies and partners in the region who have faced similar aggression, as well as those who continue on the road to recovery post-conflict.

We greatly appreciated report language included in the appropriations package passed by the House on July 28 that requests \$50 million to bolster Armenia's democratic, economic, and energy reforms while also offering flexibility to address the ongoing humanitarian needs in Artsakh linked to last year's 44-day war. However, the Armenian people of Artsakh are still recovering from the war that was initiated by Azerbaijani and Turkish forces in the fall of 2020, which resulted in significant loss of life and large refugee flows. Months later, there continue to be ongoing border disputes. This has had a devastating impact on the Armenian people of Artsakh, and we must ensure they have the resources they need to recover. Unfortunately, the United States did not provide appropriate levels of humanitarian assistance to meet the immense need, and the road to recovery continues to be long.

With that in mind, we would request that the following provision be included in the upcoming omnibus bill:

Of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than \$50,000,000 shall be made available for assistance in Nagorno-Karabakh, used to provide humanitarian assistance and resettlement support to the Armenian victims of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, both

those residing in and those displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh. Such assistance will help to meet basic human needs, including maternity healthcare and drinking water programs.

We realize that your respective Subcommittees have many critical priorities this year, particularly in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, but we urge you to consider this funding as an integral part of any successful post-conflict renewal in the region.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter, and for your work to ensure that all humanitarian crises are addressed appropriately.

Sincerely,



Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House

The Honorable Charles Schumer, Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations