

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 14, 2018

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Ambassador Mark Green
Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Secretary Pompeo and Ambassador Green:

We are writing to encourage you to capitalize on and further promote positive political developments in Armenia. As you know, Armenia's longtime leader Serzh Sargsyan resigned April 23, following mass protests led by Nikol Pashinyan. Due to immense popular pressure, Armenia's ruling Republican Party subsequently allowed Mr. Pashinyan to become Prime Minister on May 8. Though Pashinyan has been able to build a cabinet and has won parliamentary approval for his government's program, many analysts expect snap elections within a year.

We are greatly heartened that a huge number of Armenians joined protests, made demands upon their government, and peacefully and constitutionally carried the day. Prime Minister Pashinyan has a unique opportunity to work with government and civil society to reshape Armenian politics, governance, economics, and the very nature of Armenian statehood.

This opportunity does not come without substantial risks. We can mitigate these by helping to strengthen Armenia's political and civic institutions, assisting them as they engage citizens, build consensus, forge alliances, and advocate for their public policy priorities. Our help is particularly vital during this transition period, as the people and government work through their new Constitutional system, strive to overcome the economic legacy of corruption, and place their nation on a durable path toward sustainable democratic development.

As supporters of Armenia, we believe it is incumbent that the United States federal government utilize its myriad diplomatic and developmental assets to help Armenia on its path to greater democracy, transparency, and prosperity. The United States can pivotally affect Armenia's future by anchoring it in the democratic community of nations. We call upon the Department of State and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to aid Armenia as it reforms its political processes, fights corruption, and improves its economy.

Specifically, we respectfully ask that you consider:

1. **Increasing funds available for democracy assistance to Armenia through the Department of State's Office of the Coordinator to Europe and Eurasia.** With elections on the horizon, supporting the transition process now underway is key to continuing Armenia's positive momentum. Funding could be utilized by organizations such as the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and its grantees, which are uniquely positioned to promote political party development and electoral processes, while maintaining support for civil society groups that promote an independent media and human rights. NED currently only allocates \$1.3 million a year to Armenia. Tripling that funding would be relatively cheap and have a disproportionate impact.
2. **Assisting Armenian efforts to fight corruption, promote transparency, and improve the economy.** Armenians took to the street in large part to protest rampant corruption and a stalled economy. Addressing these concerns will be a crucial enabler of further democratic progress and economic growth via foreign investment. The State Department and USAID have ample discretionary funds available to support rule of law programs, increase economic support, and fund relevant grantees through NED and other venues. These funds will ensure civil society can participate in building accountable and democratic institutions. We are particularly interested in promoting Armenia's tech sector and wine industry by facilitating a new Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math Millennium Challenge compact, providing technical assistance, and encouraging partnerships with U.S. companies and institutions. New sanctions on Iran could also disproportionately harm Armenia's economy and we ask that you exercise discretion in applying them.

We have a special opportunity to encourage and enable further positive change in Armenia. The steps above will allow us to build on positive momentum and help Armenia navigate likely challenges in the months and years ahead. We look forward to continuing to work with you on these important domestic Armenian matters, as well as issues related to Armenia's security and the Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) peace process.

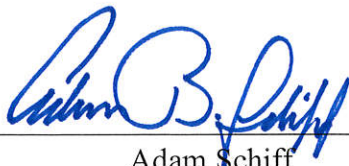
Sincerely,



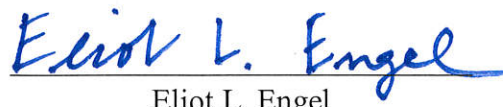
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



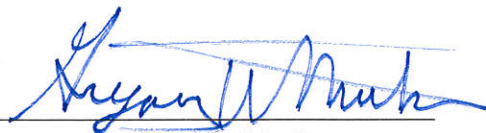
Frank Pallone, Jr.
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Adam Schiff
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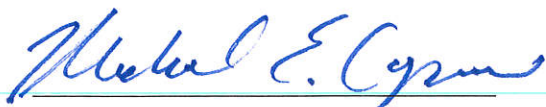
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



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Ted Poe
Member of Congress



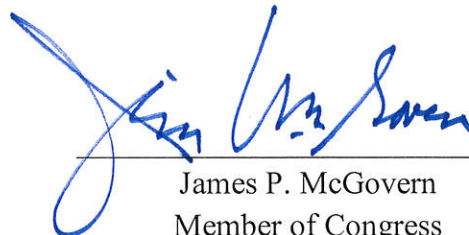
Michael Capuano
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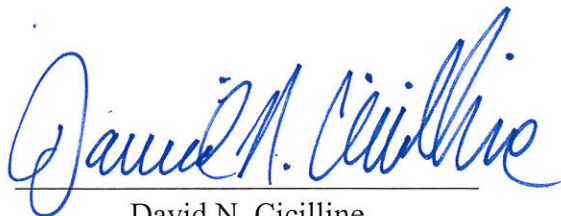
Ro Khanna
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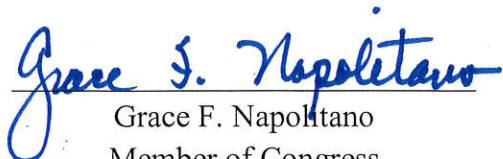
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Niki Tsongas
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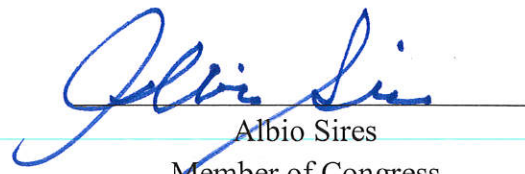

Grace F. Napolitano
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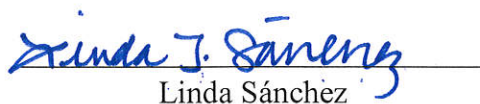

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

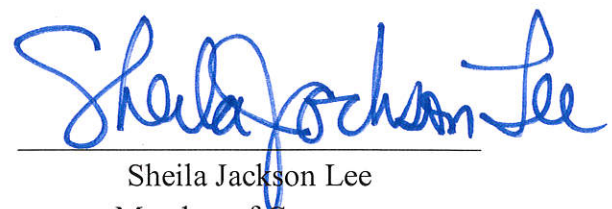

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

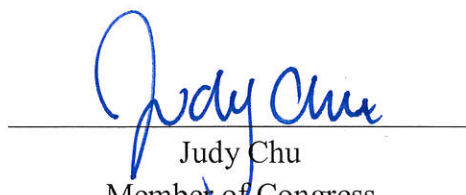

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress


James R. Langevin
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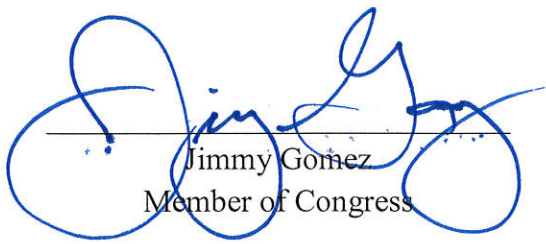

Albio Sires
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Linda Sánchez
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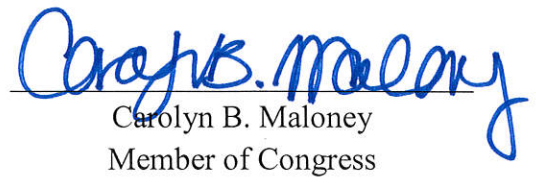

Sheila Jackson Lee
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Carolyn B. Maloney
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Josh Gottheimer
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