

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

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

March 27, 2025

Dear Secretary Rubio,

In light of Azerbaijan's continued aggression toward Armenia, its occupation of sovereign Armenian territory, the ongoing arbitrary detention and abuse of Armenian POWs, and the destruction of the region's ancient Armenian Christian cultural heritage, we write to urge the Department of State to enforce statutory prohibitions on U.S. military assistance to Azerbaijan pursuant to Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act [U.S Public Law No: 102-511].

Over a year has passed since Azerbaijan's military assault on the Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh) forcibly displaced the region's 120,000 Armenians in what has been widely described as an act of ethnic cleansing. Having faced no material consequences or accountability for its actions, Azerbaijan continues to undermine efforts to ensure a just, durable, and dignified peace in the region through its ongoing aggression against Armenia.

In 2002, Congress granted the President the authority to waive Section 907 prohibitions on military assistance to Azerbaijan on an annual basis when determined to be in the national security interests of the United States. While every successive Administration exercised this waiver authority, President Biden, in the last year of his Administration, finally chose to enforce Section 907 restrictions. This was in response to considerable bipartisan and bicameral Congressional pressure. This includes the Senate's unanimous adoption of S.3000, the Armenian Protection Act, a bill that you co-led with Senator Peters and Senator Cassidy.

Azerbaijan's authoritarian regime has routinely abused the privilege of U.S. assistance, engaging in conduct inconsistent with the values and national security interests of the United States. Azerbaijan's defiance of U.S. warnings to cease its blockade and refrain from military action against Nagorno-Karabakh demonstrated a clear disregard for U.S. efforts to mediate a lasting solution to the conflict. Furthermore, as Azerbaijan deepens its economic and energy ties with Russia and Iran, it is clear that Azerbaijan is not a reliable strategic partner to the United States in the region.

Amid the persistent threat of authoritarian expansionism throughout the region and across the world, it is imperative that the Trump Administration makes clear to governments that undermine U.S. interests that their actions will not be met with impunity – much less material financial support. Amid Azerbaijan's ongoing aggression against Armenia, the failure to hold Azerbaijan

accountable would not only risk normalizing Azerbaijan's actions – but embolden U.S. rivals seeking to take advantage of our inaction.

As such, maintaining the suspension of U.S. military assistance to Azerbaijan, in accordance with Section 907, is both a moral imperative in light of Azerbaijan's crimes against the Armenian people and a strategic imperative at a crucial moment when U.S. credibility and authority is being aggressively challenged by our adversaries.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to the opportunity to work with you on efforts to deter Azerbaijan's ongoing aggression – and ensure a just and dignified resolution to this humanitarian catastrophe in a manner that upholds the fundamental rights of Nagorno Karabakh's displaced Armenian population.

Sincerely,



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



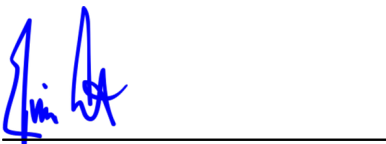
Frank Pallone, Jr.
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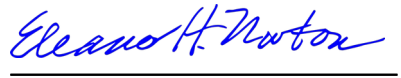
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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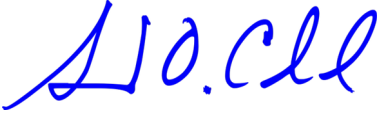
Haley M. Stevens
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Ro Khanna
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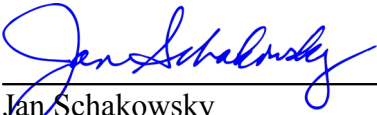
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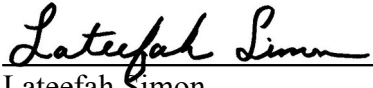
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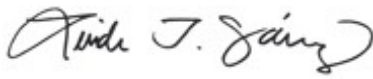
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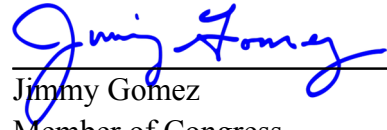
Mike Quigley
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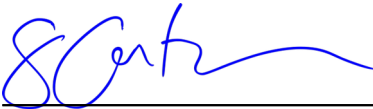
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Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



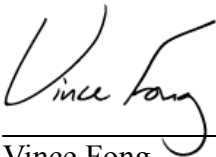
Jimmy Gomez
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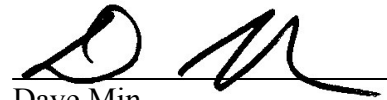
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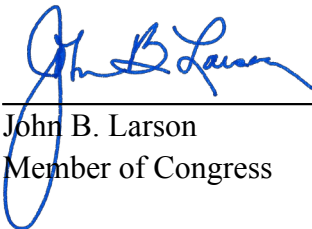
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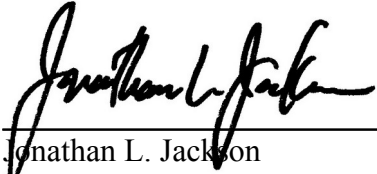
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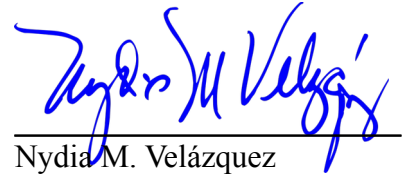
John B. Larson
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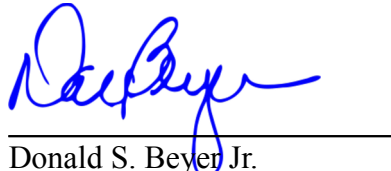
Robert J. Menendez
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Jonathan L. Jackson
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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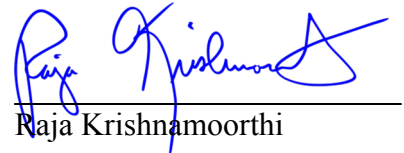
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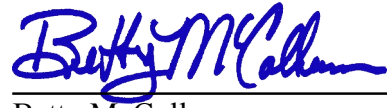
Delia C. Ramirez
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Betty McCollum
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Susie Lee
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Christopher H. Smith
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