

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We urge you to meet with the Prime Minister of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan, while he is visiting the United States in September for the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Republic of Armenia has seen a remarkable change in its government through peaceful and democratic means over the past few months. As part of this movement, Mr. Pashinyan – a former newspaper editor and political prisoner – led tens of thousands of Armenians through the streets of Yerevan to protest former President and Prime Minister Sargsyan's decade-long rule. Prior to being voted into his role as Prime Minister in May, Mr. Pashinyan organized this nonviolent grassroots movement known as the “Velvet Revolution,” which ultimately forced Mr. Sargsyan to resign.

The peaceful transition of power after the revolution is a clear indication of the will of the Armenian people, strongly demonstrating their commitment to a fairer and more democratic state. As Armenia seeks to bolster government transparency, strengthen democratic institutions, and empower civil society, it is critical for the United States to deepen its ties with this regional partner at every level of government. Without question, your meeting with Prime Minister Pashinyan would help to further this goal and strengthen dialogue between our countries.

Additionally, we are requesting a series of high-level conversations between your Cabinet Secretaries and their counterparts in Armenia – many of whom have recently been appointed as members of the newly formed government. These meetings would help to establish a critical bridge between our countries, helping to further increase Armenia's inclusion in the international system and likely leading to more comprehensive US-Armenian bilateral trade.


We believe that the peaceful protests witnessed during the Velvet Revolution can be a model for nations seeking democracy around the world. In the long run, we would like to see Armenia develop stronger diplomatic relations with our Western allies and progress as a democratic nation within Eurasia. We reiterate our request and urge you to meet with Prime Minister Pashinyan to discuss the future of Armenian-American relations based on our shared values emphasizing economic development, security, human rights and democracy.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding our request.

Sincerely,


FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress


DAVID TROTT
Member of Congress


JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress


DAVID G. VALADAO
Member of Congress

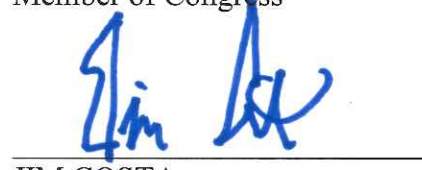

ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress


GUS M. BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress



EDWARD R. ROYCE
Member of Congress


ELIOT ENGEL
Member of Congress


GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress


JIM COSTA
Member of Congress


LINDA T. SANCHEZ
Member of Congress


JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress


ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress


BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress



DINA TITUS
Member of Congress



ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress




ROBERT A. BRADY
Member of Congress



NORMA J. TORRES
Member of Congress



MICHAEL CAPUANO
Member of Congress



TED POE
Member of Congress



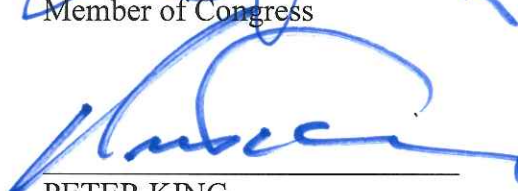
KATHERINE CLARK
Member of Congress



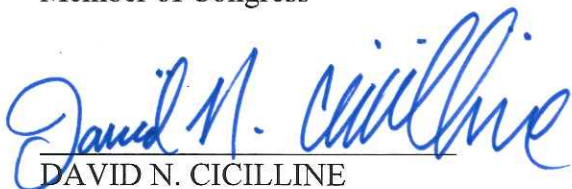
ZOE LOFGREN
Member of Congress



SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress



PETER KING
Member of Congress



DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress



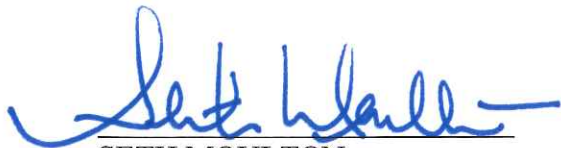
JOHN P. SARBANES
Member of Congress



JOSH GOTTHEIMER
Member of Congress



GRACE MENG
Member of Congress



SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



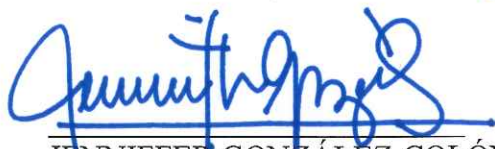
MIKE COFFMAN
Member of Congress



NITA M. LOWEY
Member of Congress



THEODORE E. DEUTCH
Member of Congress



JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN
Member of Congress



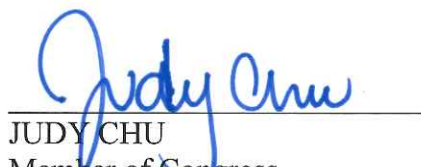
BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
Member of Congress



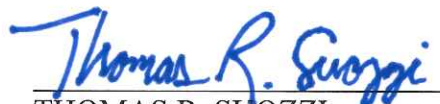
JIM LANGEVIN
Member of Congress



SALUD O. CARBAJAL
Member of Congress



JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



THOMAS R. SUOZZI
Member of Congress



BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER
Member of Congress



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



KATHLEEN M. RICE
Member of Congress



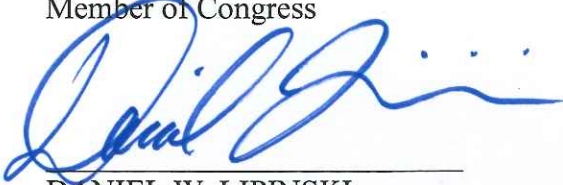
JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III
Member of Congress



BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress



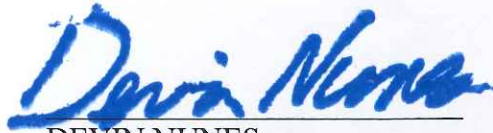
BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



DANIEL W. LIPINSKI
Member of Congress



KAREN BASS
Member of Congress



DEVIN NUNES
Member of Congress



ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress