

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 1, 2023

The Honorable Mike Johnson,
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries,
House Minority Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer,
Senate Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell,
Senate Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader Jeffries, and Minority Leader McConnell,

As Congress considers supplemental funding to enhance the security of our allies, we would like to highlight a vulnerable democracy that warrants American support: the Republic of Armenia. We strongly support the inclusion of funds in any supplemental appropriations bill to strengthen the U.S.-Armenia security partnership and help address the severe humanitarian challenges caused by Azerbaijan's recent aggression.

On September 19th, Azerbaijan launched an unprovoked military offensive on Nagorno-Karabakh, displacing 120,000 ethnically Armenian civilians from their homeland and ending their more than three decades of self-rule. The assault was the culmination of a cruel blockade that deprived the region's population of food, medicine, and other necessities for nearly ten months. Azerbaijan's aggression has resulted in a devastating humanitarian crisis, with Armenia absorbing tens of thousands of refugees.

Now that Azerbaijani dictator Ilham Aliyev has reshaped the region using military force, we fear that he is emboldened to do so again. We are particularly concerned that Azerbaijan will continue its aggression by invading the sovereign territory of Armenia. Ominously, Aliyev recently referred to southern Armenia as "western Azerbaijan" and called for the "liberation" of eight Armenian villages along the Azerbaijani border.

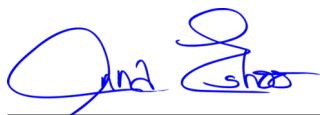
As a small democracy in a region dominated by autocrats, Armenia is particularly vulnerable. This is especially true now that Armenia has distanced itself from Russia, Armenia's traditional security guarantor, in pursuit of closer ties with western democracies. We believe the U.S. has an important role to play in ensuring Armenia's security is not jeopardized because of its decision to break away from Putin's murderous regime.

At this inflection point for the Caucasus, U.S. leadership is needed to deter further Azerbaijani aggression and enable Armenians to defend their democracy. To this end, we respectfully request that at least \$10 million in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) for Armenia be included in the forthcoming supplemental appropriations package. We are also pleased that the President's supplemental request includes robust funding for humanitarian aid, and we're hopeful that a

portion of these funds will be made available to Armenia to meet the humanitarian needs of the 120,000 refugees who were recently forced from their homes in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our requests and for your commitment to strengthening American support for vulnerable democracies throughout the world.

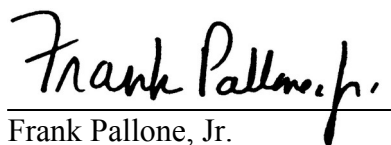
Sincerely,



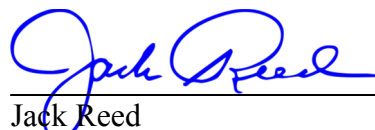
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jack Reed
United States Senator



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



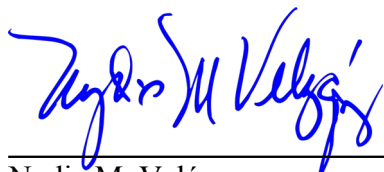
John Fetterman
United States Senator



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



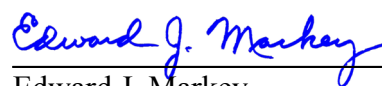
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



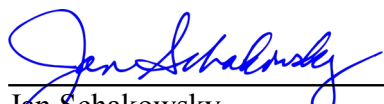
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



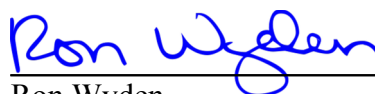
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



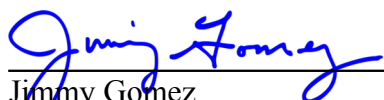
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



David J. Trone
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



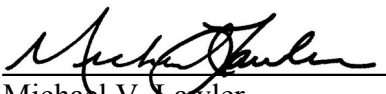
John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler
Member of Congress



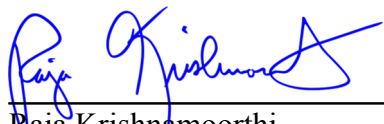
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress



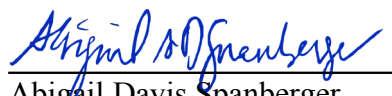
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



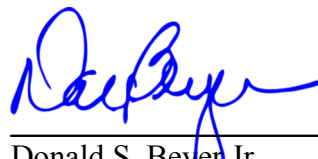
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



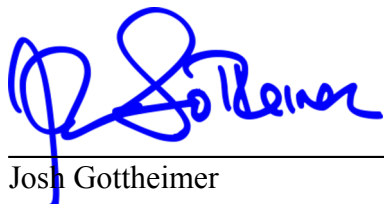
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



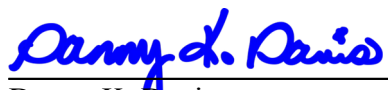
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



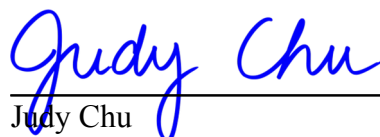
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



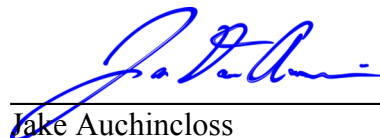
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress