

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 2, 2018

H.E. Bako Sahakyan
President of the Republic of Artsakh
20th February Street, 3
Stepanakert, NKR

Dear President Sahakyan:

On behalf of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, we are writing to congratulate you and the people of the Republic of Artsakh as you celebrate the 27th anniversary of your independence.

It was an honor to host you in the United States Capitol this past March, where we heard you discuss the important progress Artsakh has made in the areas of human rights, strengthening the rule of law and increasing transparency through government reforms. The incredible transition Artsakh has undertaken into a representative form of government is a testament to your commitment to advance democratic governance and to the will of your people.

We believe that Artsakh has earned the right to participate in the ongoing negotiations at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group by continually acting as an exemplar of democracy, peace, and freedom in the region. In order to ensure a durable and democratic resolution to the regional issues your country currently faces, we believe that Artsakh must be allowed to directly participate in negotiations regarding its future status and security. Our hope is that your country will once again be included in these talks at some point in the near future.

Again, we wish the people of Artsakh our sincerest congratulations and offer our full support for your country. Please know that we remain committed to the development of Artsakh's economy and its democracy, and that we will continue our call for the formal recognition of its independence.

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