

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 27, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, during which 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children were massacred or marched to their deaths by the Ottoman Empire. We are writing to request that you attend the main commemorative event in Yerevan, Armenia on April 24th in order to send a powerful message that the United States recognizes the magnitude and full meaning of the Armenian Genocide. Your affirmation, this April, of the Armenian Genocide - as a clear case of genocide - will properly honor the victims of this crime and underscore America's principled stand against all genocides - past, present, and future.

From 1915 to 1923, 2 million Armenians were deported or expelled from their historic homeland where they had lived for 2,500 years. More than 1.5 million men, women, and children perished. This was genocide. At the time, U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, explicitly described the genocide as a "campaign of race extermination," an account that was corroborated at the time by the Allied Powers of England, France, and Russia. At the end of World War I, the Ottoman Turkish Government indicted the persons responsible for organizing and executing massacres against the Armenian people. Since then, the historical record of the Armenian Genocide has been documented by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum through a public examination of the historic record.

The United States Congress marked the beginning of the Armenian Genocide in 1916 with the passage of its first Armenian Genocide resolution, which noted the "starvation, diseases, and untold suffering" of the Armenians. In subsequent years, additional congressional resolutions noted the "clearly established the truth of the reported massacres and other atrocities from which the Armenian people have suffered." Last year the Senate Foreign Relations Committee reported Senate Resolution 410, which calls for the foreign policy of the United States to reflect this understanding of the Armenian Genocide.

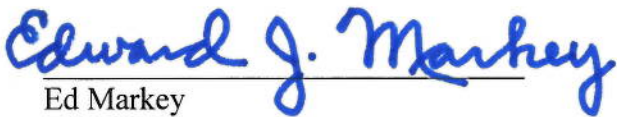
While the United States Congress has a long history of support for the victims and the memory of the Armenian Genocide, the Administration has not formally recognized the atrocities that were perpetrated against the Armenians as "genocide". Your presence at the event would send a powerful signal to the international community that this Administration is committed to recognizing the Armenian Genocide, to upholding the ideals of tolerance and


universal human rights upon which our country was founded, and to preventing similar atrocities from ever happening again.


Sincerely,



Robert Menendez
United States Senator


Barbara Boxer
United States Senator


Ed Markey
United States Senator


Dick Durbin
United States Senator

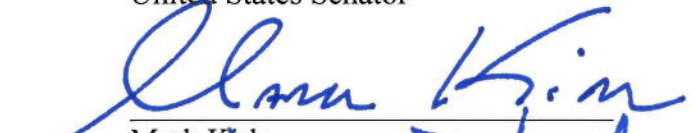

Jack Reed
United States Senator

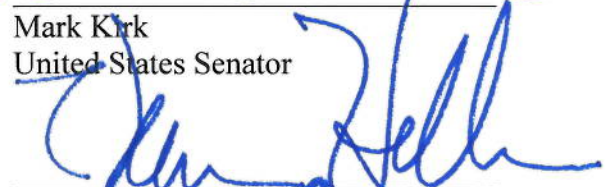

Gary Peters
United States Senator

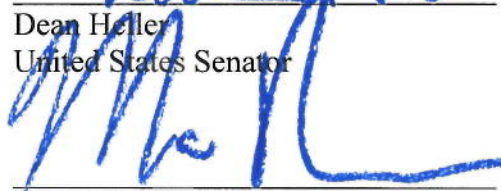

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator


Mark Kirk
United States Senator


Dean Heller
United States Senator


Marco Rubio
United States Senator


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator


Brian Schatz
United States Senator