

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

September 2, 2016

H.E. Bako Sahakyan  
President of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic  
20<sup>th</sup> 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 Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, as you celebrate the 25th anniversary of your independence on September 2. This historic day represents an important milestone in Artsakh's struggle to defend its right to self-determination and liberty.

A quarter of a century ago, your people raised their voice for freedom and dignity declaring their intention to build a sovereign and independent state. While overcoming Soviet oppression and Azerbaijan's military aggression, the formation of the Republic in 1991 became a testament to fundamental principles of liberty, democracy, and peace.


Over the years, despite continued violence and threats, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic has continued to prove its strong dedication to these universal values. We commend your nation for consistently holding free and fair elections and your commitment to advance democratic governance and rule of law.

We remain committed to the continued development of Artsakh's economy and its democracy. We also condemn Azerbaijan's most recent aggression in early April against the people of Artsakh that led to hundreds of military and civilian casualties. We remain hopeful that a peaceful resolution to the Karabakh conflict will be found, and appreciate your unwavering pursuit of regional security and stability.

We will continue our support of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and call for the formal recognition of Artsakh's independence.

Sincerely,

  
FRANK PALLONE, JR.  
Member of Congress

  
ROBERT J. DOLD  
Member of Congress



JACKIE SPEIER  
Member of Congress



DAVID G. VALADAO  
Member of Congress



ADAM B. SCHIFF  
Member of Congress



DAVID A. TROTT  
Member of Congress