



Armenian National Committee of America

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U.S. FUNDING FOR KARABAKH REGIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER WILL EXPAND CARE FOR PATIENTS WITH DISABILITIES

REQUEST: The ANCA supports the appropriation of no less than \$5 million in Nagorno Karabakh aid as part of the FY17 State-Foreign Operations bill to support humanitarian and developmental programs, including the expansion and modernization of the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Center, a regional clinic serving children and adults with physical and mental disabilities.

THE LADY COX REHABILITATION CENTER: Today, among the most urgent humanitarian priorities in the region is rehabilitating children and adults with disabilities.

-- The Lady Cox Rehabilitation Center, first established in 1998 through a partnership of local health officials and then-Speaker of United Kingdom's House of Lords, Baroness Caroline Cox (a trained nurse), is respected internationally for its leadership in rehabilitation.

-- The Center provides high-quality, specialized medical care each year to approximately 1,000 local and regional patients. Among those receiving treatment include patients - from Karabakh, Armenia, Russia, Georgia - with spinal cord injuries, elderly stroke victims, and infants and children born with disabilities, such as cerebral palsy and spina bifida.

-- The Center strives to dispel cultural stigmas, many rooted in the Soviet-era, associated with disabilities, and works - via speech, occupational and other therapies - to ensure that its patients are given the opportunity to live happy and fulfilling lives.

URGENT NEED: In the face of rapidly growing local and regional demands for rehabilitation services, the Center lacks the infrastructure and modern facilities to meet its pressing humanitarian mission.

BENEFITS: An appropriation of no less than \$5 million in FY17 aid for Nagorno Karabakh will help meet desperate humanitarian needs among some of the region's most vulnerable and at-risk populations. This assistance will also reinforce America's commitment to the ongoing peace process, and strengthen U.S. leadership in supporting and sustaining regional stability.

BACKGROUND ON U.S. AID TO NAGORNO KARABAKH: The U.S. aid program to Nagorno Karabakh, first enacted in FY98, has materially improved maternity care for at-risk mothers and infants, provided clean drinking water for thousands of families, and, in partnership with the Halo Trust, cleared farmland and rural villages of deadly landmines and unexploded ordnance. (Nagorno Karabakh has experienced one of the highest per capita rates of landmine accidents in the world, higher than even Afghanistan).

ON-LINE RESOURCES: Learn more about the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Center

Website of the Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (which partially sponsors the Center):
<http://theladycoxrehabilitationcentre.org/?lang=en>

Video (6-minutes) about the Lady Cox Rehabilitation Center:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9F7-mHeB3Eg>
