



Armenian National Committee of America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

April 3, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

I am writing on behalf of the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) to request that you reprogram at least \$25 million in funds already appropriated by Congress to assist the Republic of Armenia effectively and efficiently respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ANCA appreciates the initial tranche of funds (\$1.1 million) made available by the U.S. Department of State to Armenia in response to the pandemic following President Trump's signing of H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act into law on March 27, 2020. In this regard, we also appreciate the remarks you delivered on March 26, 2020, when you stated that "our leadership in the COVID-19 response is another example of how America—our government, our businesses and organizations, and our people—continues to be the world's greatest humanitarians. Between existing resources, supplemental funding, the private sector, and the generous spirit of the American people, the United States is leading – and will continue to lead – the effort to combat this dangerous pathogen and its threat to global health and security."

Today, we urge the Department of State, in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and other relevant agencies and departments– to immediately reprogram funding already appropriated for Armenia to assist the nation's Ministry of Health, which is charged with battling the pandemic. Specifically, we encourage USAID to reprogram existing foreign aid funds to make them available to: a) allow Armenian officials to procure necessary medical equipment and supplies; b) bolster tracking efforts to rapidly bend the curve to level off COVID-19 cases among the general population, and; c) provide financial assistance to well respected non-profit organizations serving families in need across the Republic of Armenia, with a focus on seniors, the disabled, and children.

As you may know, several days ago the European Union announced that it is both reprogramming 33 million Euros in existing funding to help Armenia bolster its COVID-19 efforts, and also making an additional 18 million Euros available for Armenia to acquire medical devices and equipment, support small and medium-sized businesses, and help ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches low-income families.

During the Centennial of United States - Armenia relations, President Donald Trump celebrated this enduring friendship by expressing his hope that "our partnership, that started 100 years ago, will

further strengthen.” In this spirit, we call on you to direct the immediate reprogramming of at least \$25 million in funds already appropriated by Congress to assist the Republic of Armenia to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you in advance for considering our request. Please do not hesitate to have Assistant Secretary Reeker or Deputy Assistant Secretary George Kent contact us directly at (202) 775-1918 or anca@anca.org with any questions or feedback regarding the matters addressed in this correspondence.

Please share our thanks with all those at the Department of State and partner agencies for all they are doing, during these trying times, to represent our nation, protect our citizens, and help end this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Raffi Haig Hamparian', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Raffi Haig Hamparian
Chairman

cc:

Senator James Risch, Chairman Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Senator Robert Menendez, Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Senator Richard Shelby, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
Senator Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee
Representative Eliot Engel, Chairman House Foreign Affairs Committee
Representative Michael McCaul, Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee
Representative Nita Lowey, Chairwoman, House Appropriations Committee
Representative Hal Rogers, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues