

Armenian National Committee of America NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

November 29, 2022

Hon. Frank Pallone U.S. House of Representatives 2107 RHOB Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pallone:

I am writing to encourage you to seek any and all avenues to secure robust humanitarian funding for the at-risk Armenian population in Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) – an Armenian Caucus priority that you have long championed – in any end of year spending packages adopted by the U.S. Congress.

As you know, the Biden Administration, like the Trump Administration before it, has – under pressure from Azerbaijan – pursued a reckless and irresponsible policy of blocking U.S. humanitarian aid to Artsakh – despite the desperate needs there and the broad, bipartisan support this aid program enjoys in both houses of Congress. Overriding Azerbaijan's veto against U.S. aid to Artsakh is a top legislative priority for the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) and our community and coalition partners.

We are all proud that the United States has met humanitarian needs across the globe, in even the most challenging of crisis zones. We have, admirably, helped desperate populations, providing billions in assistance to save and serve the needy in Yemen, Burma, Ukraine, and others hot conflicts and hard-to-reach areas. Sadly, our State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development – under Secretary Antony Blinken and Administrator Samantha Power, respectively – have failed to provide any meaningful support for Armenians in Artsakh to address food, water, health, and energy insecurity, and other emergency conditions.

Knowing of your strong support for U.S. aid to Artsakh, and the work of the Armenian Caucus in urging the Administration to provide such assistance, I am asking you to include the following language in any year-end spending package that is adopted by Congress:

"Of the funds appropriated under this act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs not less than \$50,000,000 shall be made available for global health, humanitarian, and stabilization assistance for the Armenian population of Artsakh."

On behalf of the ANCA and your Armenian American constituents, I thank you for your long record of supporting U.S. aid to Artsakh and also for your thoughtful consideration of this request. I am available to discuss this matter at your convenience, and our Government Affairs Director Tereza Yerimyan, (202) 742-8703, tereza@anca.org, is ready to work with your professional staff at any time.

Sincerely,

Raffi Haig Hamparian Chairman

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cc:

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken

USAID Administrator Samantha Power

U.S. House Committee on Appropriations

U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs Committee

U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations