

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

**Honor the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide by Becoming an
Original Cosponsor of the Armenian Genocide Recognition Resolution**

April 24, 2015 will be the 100th Anniversary

Dear Colleague:

One hundred years ago, the government of the Ottoman Empire launched the first genocide of the Twentieth Century – the Armenian Genocide. By the time the atrocities ended in 1923, 1.5 million men, women and children had been killed, shot, beaten, starved, raped and force-marched through searing deserts or over frigid mountains.

The evidence of the Genocide is overwhelming – it is settled history. American newspapers at the time chronicled the Genocide in great detail. American diplomats throughout the crumbling Ottoman Empire transmitted a flood of cables and other reports detailing the slaughter of Armenians. In 1919, Congress passed legislation to aid the victims and ordinary Americans contributed money to aid the survivors and tens of thousands of orphaned children. Our National Archives house thousands of cables, reports, eyewitness testimony, photographs and other evidence of a deliberate campaign of extermination.

For the past 100 years, the Armenian people have sought justice. They have fought to have their suffering, which inspired a young Polish Jew whose family had been wiped out in the Holocaust to invent the word “genocide” to describe the horror that occurred, recognized by the international community and especially the descendants of those who carried out the slaughter.

In response, the Turkish government has maintained a decades-long policy of actively obstructing any attempt by the American government or other nations to recognize what happened to the Armenian people for what it was: genocide. The Turkish state has never accepted responsibility for the acts of its predecessor government and has stubbornly maintained that the genocide never took place.

Nevertheless, forty-two U.S. states have recognized the Armenian Genocide, as have eleven of our NATO allies. **On this special year, it is time for the United States government to officially join with those voices standing against this genocide denial.**

We can help bring closure to this longstanding moral issue that continues to impact U.S. interests. Denial of the Armenian Genocide exacerbates underlying tension in the region, and undermines foundations for durable peace and security. We can help open a new chapter by ensuring that the United States officially recognizes the truth about the Armenian Genocide. By speaking now, we can put an end to efforts by Turkey to silence the victims of one of history’s great crimes.

This is the same language as in H. Res. 227 from the 113th Congress. For further information, or to cosponsor, please contact Noah Barger in Rep. Dold’s office at noah.barger@mail.house.gov, or Jeff Lowenstein in Rep. Schiff’s office at jeff.lowenstein@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert Dold
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

David G. Valadao
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress