

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

September 16, 2019

Anthony Barsamian and Van Krikorian, Co-Chairs
Armenian Assembly of America
734 15th Street NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Friends,

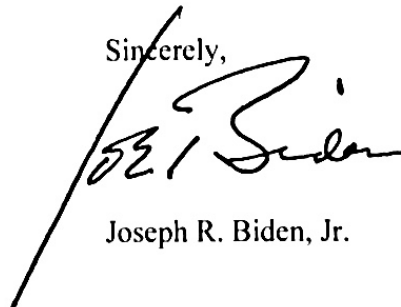
I'm proud to join the Armenian Assembly of America in honoring Congresswoman Jackie Speier's steadfast commitment to advancing U.S.-Armenian relations. Representative Speier has demonstrated incredible leadership in Congress on issues ranging from women's rights and national security to global human rights and the support of free and fair democracy. The people of California and the American people are fortunate to have her fighting for justice and equality at home and abroad—the world is truly better for it.

The United States must reaffirm, once and for all, our record on the Armenian Genocide. As a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, Congresswoman Speier has been an unfailing champion on this important issue. We must never forget or remain silent about this horrific and systematic campaign of extermination that resulted in the deaths of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children and the mass deportation of 2 million Armenians from their homes. If we do not fully acknowledge, commemorate, and teach our children about genocide, the words “never again” lose their meaning. The facts must be as clear and as powerful for future generations as for those whose memories are seared by tragedy. Failing to remember or acknowledge the fact of a genocide only paves the way for future mass atrocities.

At a time when democratic principles are under attack around the world and decades of progress are at risk, bold leadership in defense of our shared values and our shared vision for the future is more important than ever. I know the American people can trust you all to keep speaking out and fighting injustice wherever you find it.

Congratulations, Congresswoman Speier, and thank you all for your continued efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Biden", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the left side of the signature.

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.