



# ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA

734 15<sup>th</sup> STREET, NW ▪ Suite 500 ▪ WASHINGTON, DC 20005 ▪ (202) 393-3434 ▪ Fax: (202) 638-4904

September 2, 2016

President Bako S. Sahakyan  
Artsakh Republic

Dear President Sahakyan,

On the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian Assembly of America extends our heartfelt congratulations to all the people of Artsakh. In modern Armenian life, Nagorno-Karabakh has embodied both the hardships and victories that we consider the best characteristics of the Armenian nation and which truly create family bonds. The courage, character, honesty, democracy, resilience, good will, faith, and respect that people in Artsakh have shown since the independence movement began have been inspirational and it has been our privilege to support your right to determine your own future from the beginning.

Your determination and success have been a unifying factor for all Armenians, and we pray that will only continue. To face what you have faced and continue to face, we must be united. It has been our privilege to support your rights and choices, and we thank you for that honor.

Since its establishment in 1997, we have been honored to host in our Washington office the Office of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic in the United States of America. From Section 907 to opening U.S. foreign assistance in the tens of millions of dollars, and beyond, you have seen our professional advocacy work. We acknowledge that we need to do more.

We also acknowledge that the war is not over. The recent atrocities and attacks led by Azerbaijani President Aliyev and others in clear violation of international agreements and every standard of good conscience are constant reminders of the risks we face. The Armenian Assembly continues advocating for your freedom and security. There can be no lasting solution unless your government participates in the Minsk Group negotiations and people in Artsakh democratically approve any negotiated solution. If, as recently announced, in fact, the Minsk Group co-chair countries of France, Russia and the United States guarantee your security as part of a peace agreement you approve, we will support it and work to ensure its success. Considering the threats, however, we understand that you will need more than that to deal with the risks.

September 2, 2016, is a day to celebrate. For those of us who could not be there with you, know that we are celebrating and smiling with you, carrying the spirit you generously share with us.

Respectfully,

Anthony Barsamian  
Co-Chairman

Carolyn Mugar  
President

Van Krikorian  
Co-Chairman