

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 1, 2023

The Honorable Mike Johnson,  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries,  
House Minority Leader  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer,  
Senate Majority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell,  
Senate Minority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader Jeffries, and Minority Leader McConnell,

As Congress considers supplemental funding to enhance the security of our allies, we would like to highlight a vulnerable democracy that warrants American support: the Republic of Armenia. We strongly support the inclusion of funds in any supplemental appropriations bill to strengthen the U.S.-Armenia security partnership and help address the severe humanitarian challenges caused by Azerbaijan's recent aggression.

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, Azerbaijan launched an unprovoked military offensive on Nagorno-Karabakh, displacing 120,000 ethnically Armenian civilians from their homeland and ending their more than three decades of self-rule. The assault was the culmination of a cruel blockade that deprived the region's population of food, medicine, and other necessities for nearly ten months. Azerbaijan's aggression has resulted in a devastating humanitarian crisis, with Armenia absorbing tens of thousands of refugees.

Now that Azerbaijani dictator Ilham Aliyev has reshaped the region using military force, we fear that he is emboldened to do so again. We are particularly concerned that Azerbaijan will continue its aggression by invading the sovereign territory of Armenia. Ominously, Aliyev recently referred to southern Armenia as "western Azerbaijan" and called for the "liberation" of eight Armenian villages along the Azerbaijani border.

As a small democracy in a region dominated by autocrats, Armenia is particularly vulnerable. This is especially true now that Armenia has distanced itself from Russia, Armenia's traditional security guarantor, in pursuit of closer ties with western democracies. We believe the U.S. has an important role to play in ensuring Armenia's security is not jeopardized because of its decision to break away from Putin's murderous regime.

At this inflection point for the Caucasus, U.S. leadership is needed to deter further Azerbaijani aggression and enable Armenians to defend their democracy. To this end, we respectfully request that at least \$10 million in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) for Armenia be included in the forthcoming supplemental appropriations package. We are also pleased that the President's supplemental request includes robust funding for humanitarian aid, and we're hopeful that a

portion of these funds will be made available to Armenia to meet the humanitarian needs of the 120,000 refugees who were recently forced from their homes in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our requests and for your commitment to strengthening American support for vulnerable democracies throughout the world.

Sincerely,



---

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



---

Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



---

Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



---

Jack Reed  
United States Senator



---

David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



---

Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



---

Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



---

Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



---

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



---

Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



---

Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



---

John Fetterman  
United States Senator



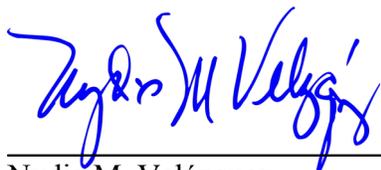
---

Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



---

Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



---

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



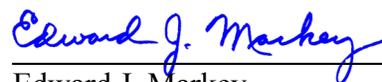
---

Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



---

Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



---

Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



---

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



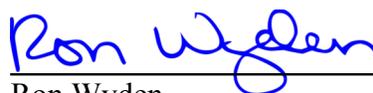
---

Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



---

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



---

Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



---

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



---

Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



---

Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



---

Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



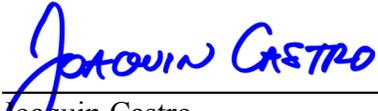
---

Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



---

Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



---

Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



---

Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



---

Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



---

Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



---

David J. Trone  
Member of Congress



---

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



---

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



---

John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



---

Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



---

Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress



---

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



---

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



---

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



---

Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress



---

Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



---

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



---

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



---

Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



---

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



---

Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress

*Madeline Dean*

---

Madeline Dean  
Member of Congress

*Chris Smith*

---

Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress