April 21, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Dear Mr. President:

Later this month, on April 24, the world will mark the 106th anniversary of the first days of the Armenian Genocide, the systematic murder of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, and the displacement of many more. Yet for decades, while leaders around the world recognize the first genocide of the 20th Century, the President of the United States has remained silent. We join with the proud Armenian American community and all of those who support truth and justice in asking that you clearly and directly recognize the Armenian Genocide in your April 24 statement.

We know that this is an issue you are well acquainted with from your time in the Senate and as Vice President, including shepherding S.J.Res. 212 (designating April 24, 1990, as a National Day of Remembrance of the 75th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide) through the Judiciary Committee in 1989. We also appreciate that as Vice President you attended the centenary anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in 2015 at the National Cathedral. It was during the centennial that His Holiness Pope Francis at Mass in St. Peter's Basilica said this about the Armenian Genocide: "Concealing or denying evil is like allowing a wound to keep bleeding without bandaging it."

 The historic fact of what occurred a century ago is not in serious dispute. American diplomats of the period documented the mass slaughter of the Armenians, though they had no word for what they were witnessing. It was only decades later that Raphael Lemkin coined the term "genocide" and did so specifically with the attempted extermination of the Armenian people in mind.

In accurately describing the Genocide this year, you will be joining both the House and Senate which overwhelmingly passed resolutions doing so in 2019. Additionally, the Library of Congress has already taken the important step of cataloging books on the subject under historically accurate Armenian Genocide subject heading.

Mr. President, as you said last year in your April 24 statement, "Silence is complicity." The shameful silence of the United States Government on the historic fact of the Armenian Genocide has gone on for too long, and it must end. We urge you to follow through on your commitments and speak the truth.

Sincerely,

Adam B. Schiff	Gus Bilirakis	Frank Pallone Jr.

Jackie Speier	David Valadao

Brad Sherman	Joaquin Castro
Grace F. Napolitano	Sheila Jackson Lee
Jamie Raskin	John P. Sarbanes
Andy Levin	Eleanor Holmes Norton
Carolyn Maloney	Jim Cooper
Sean Patrick Maloney	Joe Neguse
David N. Cicilline	Jared Huffman
Lori Trahan	Anna Eshoo
Gregory W. Meeks	Jim Costa
Dina Titus	Abigail D. Spanberger
Judy Chu	Josh Gottheimer
Raja Krishnamoorthi	Thomas R. Suozzi
James P. McGovern	Tony Cárdenas
Betty McCollum	Jan Schakowsky
Ro Khanna	Stephen F. Lynch
John Garamendi	Jeff Van Drew
Juan Vargas	Jake Auchincloss
Ann Wagner	Greg Stanton
Nicole Malliotakis	Marcy Kaptur
Paul D. Tonko	Julia Browley
Earl Perlmutter	Linda T. Sánchez
David P. Joyce	Katherine M. Clark
Sara Jacobs	Grace Meng
Mike Quigley	Gwen Moore
Haley Stevens	Devin Nunes
Zoe Lofgren	Adriano Espaillat
James R. Langevin	Josh Harder
Peter A. DeFazio	Donald S. Beyer Jr.

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Barbara Lee
Lois Frankel
Donald Norcross
Bradley S. Schneider
Jimmy Gomez
Chrissy Houlahan
Doug Lamborn
Debbie Dingell
Scott Peters
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Madeleine Dean
Brian Fitzpatrick
Darrell Issa
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Lucille Roybal-Allard
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Danny K. Davis
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Mike Levin
Charlie Crist
Mike Garcia
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Richie Neal