United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 16, 2019

Dear Proud Members of the Armenian Assembly of America:

I am delighted to greet all of you on the occasion of the Armenian Assembly of America’s National Gala. I hold the Armenian Assembly of America’s work in the highest regard, and tonight’s Gala is a reminder of how impactful your efforts are in developing strong bonds between the United States and the Republic of Armenia. On a personal note, I treasure the warm relationships I have built with members of the Armenian community throughout the United States and especially in my home state of New Jersey. I am proud to represent New Jersey’s vibrant Armenian-American community and am grateful for their contributions to our state and to our country.

Going back to the 1970s, the Armenian Assembly of America’s representation of Armenian voices in American society has played an invaluable role in boosting Congressional and public engagement with Armenian issues. That engagement has facilitated strong collaboration between the United States and Armenia to both countries’ benefit. Many of Armenia’s post-independence advances, from the development of a free-market economy to the people’s growing embrace of democratic values, owe their success in part to the tireless support of organizations like the Armenian Assembly of America.

During my time in both the House and the Senate, I have been a proud advocate for Armenian-Americans and strong ties between the United States and the Republic of Armenia. In every session of Congress since 2006, I have introduced or co-sponsored resolutions affirming the facts of the Armenian Genocide. When I was Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I presided over the first-ever passage of the Armenian Genocide resolution out of the committee. It is a moral imperative for us to recognize the atrocities committed against the Armenian people during the Armenian Genocide, and I will take every opportunity to advocate for American recognition of the genocide. I proudly stand with the Armenian-American community on many critical issues, such as fighting for continued humanitarian support for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

I am with you in spirit tonight as you celebrate the American-Armenian partnership and the indispensable work of the Armenian Assembly of America. Thank you for your unwavering support of democracy in the United States and Armenia and your work to ensure the interests of Armenian-Americans are heard in Congress and around the country. I have been blessed to work with the Armenian Assembly of America throughout my career and look forward to continuing that collaboration into the future. Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful evening and continued success.

Sincerely,

Robert Menendez
United States Senator