September 16, 2019

Armenian Assembly of America
734 15th St., NW
Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Friends:

Welcome, and thank you all for coming to the Armenian Assembly of America’s 2019 National Advocacy Conference and Gala. It gives me great pleasure to mark this special occasion to celebrate U.S.-Armenian relations, and how far we have come. Since the establishment of the Armenian Assembly more than 45 years ago, the Assembly has continuously been on the forefront of promoting public awareness of U.S.-Armenian issues, supporting democracy in Armenia and Artsakh, and advancing universal recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

We are gathered here today to also celebrate dedicated public servants who have strengthened U.S.-Armenian Relations. It gives me great pleasure and honor to congratulate the recipient of the Public Service Award this year—our fellow colleague, and Co-Chair of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, Congresswoman Jackie Speier. Over the years, I have had the privilege of serving with Congresswoman Speier from the California State Assembly, Senate, and here in the House of Representatives. Her tenacity and passion for public service is unparalleled. Congresswoman Speier has been an advocate of human rights across the globe before she became an elected official. We are all lucky to have her as a colleague and a strong leader as a Co-Chair of the Congressional Armenian Caucus. Congresswoman, congratulations again and thank you for your leadership.

As a Caucus, we must continue to fulfill the mission of the Caucus and build on our accomplishments such as continued foreign aid, demining efforts in Artsakh, and ultimately, universal Armenian Genocide recognition. Coming from the land of William Saroyan, I am proud of all the efforts put forth by the Caucus and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on enhancing the U.S.-Armenian relations.

Once again, thank you all for being here to honor our dear colleague, Congresswoman Speier for all her hard work. Let’s keep up the momentum and continue moving forward. I hope you enjoy tonight’s festivities.

Sincerely,

Jim Costa
Member of Congress