Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Armenian Assembly’s 2019 National Advocacy Gala. Today marks a special occasion to celebrate Armenia’s landmark political transition and recognize Representative Jackie Speier for her commitment to the pursuit of strong U.S.-Armenia relations. With over a decade of service in the House of Representatives, the relationship between U.S. and Armenia has remained one of her key issues. I join you all in thanking Rep. Speier for her efforts and share your excitement about what the future will hold for a more democratic Armenia.

As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, Rep. Speier has been dedicated to solidifying Armenia’s democracy. Over the course of her time in office, she has supported humanitarian assistance for Armenia and Artsakh, co-sponsored resolutions to recognize the Armenian Genocide, and encouraged engagement between the U.S. and Armenian civil society. This past June, she spear-headed an effort to provide Armenia with an additional $40 million of democracy aide and co-sponsored a resolution underscoring the importance of Armenia’s burgeoning democracy and the future of U.S.-Armenia relations. These achievements highlight the influential voice she holds for the Armenian community and add to her proven track record of support for democratic causes.

The democratic values and the push for transparency and an end to corruption that the Armenian people have demonstrated mirror the principles we strive for here in the U.S. In this way, our visions for a flourishing and prosperous democracy are aligned. I know we can rely on the impassioned work and vibrant spirit of Rep. Speier to continue to help bridge American and Armenian communities, foster robust partnerships going forward, and defend against forces that try to undercut the foundations of democracy.

I am proud of what Rep. Speier has achieved and look forward to seeing what she has planned for enhancing U.S.-Armenian relations. Once again, welcome, and I hope you enjoy tonight’s festivities.

Sincerely,

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress