Dear Friends:

Aloha and welcome to Washington, D.C. on behalf of the 2nd Congressional District of Hawai‘i to the Armenian Assembly of America’s National Advocacy Conference and Gala.

I am especially happy that you will be honoring Congresswoman Jackie Speier with the Assembly’s Deukmejian Award for Public Service.

In her life as a public servant, she has survived harrowing experiences, risen above adversity, and stood firm in her principles. I have the pleasure of serving with her on the House Armed Services Committee where her life experience provides an invaluable and unique voice to the challenges we face.

As an Armenian-American, she has championed the United States-Armenia relationship throughout her years as a public servant from her time as a County Supervisor in northern California through her tenure in the California Legislature, and now as senior member of the House of Representatives. She has helped advance humanitarian assistance to Armenia and Artsakh, steadfastly supported Congressional affirmation of the Armenian Genocide, and promoted projects to bring together American and Armenian civil societies. Having traveled to Armenia and Artsakh, I have seen, first-hand, the impact U.S. engagement has meant to Armenia and the region.

Today, young Armenian-Americans can look to her example of determination and dedication to America and the communities she has and continues to serve. It is the same spirit that brings you together today – from across the country – to make your voices heard in the halls of Congress. Your activism empowers the Armenian Assembly to continue its mission of promoting public awareness of the important issues impacting Armenian-Americans and ensuring Congress takes an active role in building stronger bridges between America and Armenia.

I look forward to the growing engagement of the Armenian-American community as we work together to in support of our shared values. Congratulations to the Armenian Assembly of America and to my friend, Congresswoman Jackie Speier. I wish you all a wonderful event.

Sincerely,

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress