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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515 - 3006

December 11, 2019

Honorable Eliot L. Engel
Chairman
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
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Honorable Michael T. McCaul
Ranking Member
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
2066 Rayburn HOB

Dear Chairman Engel and Ranking Member McCaul:

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify before your Committee. As co-chair of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, I would like to highlight a bipartisan resolution I introduced, H.Res.452, that supports strengthening the United States-Republic of Armenia relationship and celebrates the country's recent move toward a more democratic future.

In the last year, we have seen an incredible grassroots movement take hold in Armenia. The former Soviet Republic has been transformed through the organic, grassroots movement that led to the nonviolent "Velvet Revolution" and unprecedented democratic national elections in December 2018. These historic events are a testament to the Armenian people's commitment to democracy, showing why it is so important for the United States to elevate our engagement with the current government of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

During its first year of governance, Armenia's government has strongly indicated its intentions to bolster civil society and democratic institutions and has worked to implement dramatic changes. The United States Congress can aid this process by reaffirming the importance of the relationship between the United States and Armenia, recognizing the potential for expanded political, economic, military, democratic, and development partnerships.

Passing H.Res.452 would be an important step in strengthening America's ties with Armenia and ensuring the Armenian people know they have the support of the U.S. government behind their democratizing efforts. Taking this step will also continue to build on the U.S.-Armenia strategic relationship and help foster pro-democratic and civil society institutions in Armenia.

I respectfully request the House Committee on Foreign Affairs take up H.Res.452 to show full support for Armenia at this exciting time of continued progress.

Sincerely,



FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress