

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 19, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write today to strongly urge you to officially recognize the truth of the Armenian Genocide. In the past you have recognized the Armenian Genocide as genocide, including in your Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day statement during the 2020 campaign. We call on you to do so again as President to make clear that the U.S. government recognizes this terrible truth.

From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Empire systematically sought to eliminate the Armenian population, killing 1.5 million Armenians and driving hundreds of thousands more from their homeland. We join the Armenian community in the United States and around the world in honoring the memory of these victims, and we stand firmly against attempts to pretend that this intentional, organized effort to destroy the Armenian people was anything other than a genocide. You have correctly stated that American diplomacy and foreign policy must be rooted in our values, including respect for universal rights. Those values require us to acknowledge the truth and do what we can to prevent future genocides and other crimes against humanity.


In December 2019, after decades of obstruction, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution affirming the facts of the Armenian Genocide. The House also overwhelmingly passed its own resolution recognizing the facts of the Armenian Genocide in 2019. We appreciate that in your April 2020 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day statement you pledged “to support a resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide,” but Congress has already made its position clear. It is time for executive branch to do so as well.

As you said in your Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day statement last April, “It is particularly important to speak these words and commemorate this history at a moment when we are reminded daily of the power of truth, and of our shared responsibility to stand against hate — because silence is complicity.” Administrations of both parties have been silent on the truth of the Armenian Genocide. We urge you to break this pattern of complicity by officially recognizing that the Armenian Genocide was a genocide.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

Mitt Romney
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

/s/ **Rob Portman**

Rob Portman
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Susan Collins
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Kevin Cramer
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Marco Rubio
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Ted Cruz
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Alex Padilla
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

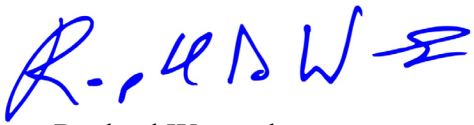
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

/s/ **Robert P. Casey, Jr.**

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

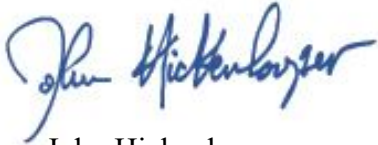
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



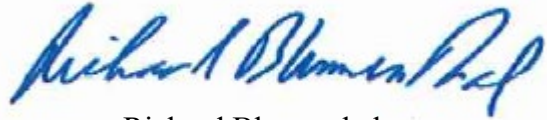
Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



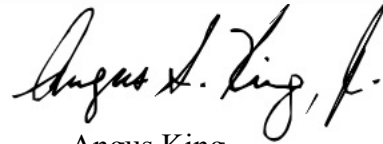
John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Angus King
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator