

March 12, 2026

Chairman Mario Diaz-Balart
Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs
Room HT-2, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Lois Frankel
Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs
2305 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressional Armenian Caucus Requests for FY27 NSRP Appropriations Bill

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Frankel:

We write to urge the Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs (NSRP) to provide funding that will enable the Republic of Armenia to protect its territorial integrity and sovereignty and promote increased security cooperation between Armenia and the United States. In addition, with Azerbaijan still holding Armenian Christian hostages in the aftermath of Azerbaijani President Aliyev ethnic cleansing of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) in September 2023, we also request language in your bill that helps secure their release, holds Aliyev accountable, and provides funding to address the needs of the over 100,000 Armenians forcibly displaced from their homes. As Armenia and Azerbaijan continue to negotiate the terms of a peace agreement, we believe these measures are critical to ensuring a durable and dignified peace predicated on justice, accountability, and respect for fundamental human rights.

Armenian Security Assistance

While encouraged by deepening U.S.-Armenia security ties announced during Vice President Vance's visit to the South Caucasus in February, we urge the U.S. to significantly expand its security cooperation with Armenia to address the ongoing threat posed by Azerbaijan, particularly amid the continued occupation of sovereign Armenian territory. Additional assistance to Armenia in the form of Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and International Military Education and Training (IMET) would play a critical role in strengthening Armenia's defensive capabilities and establishing a deterrent against Azerbaijan's unabated expansionism and threats of aggression and use of force. We are concerned that the Aliyev regime will seek to take advantage of Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine and turmoil across the Middle East to press its military advantage against Armenia during this critical stage in negotiations. To deter that threat, we request that you include the following provisions:

- *Of the funds appropriated under this Act, not less than \$20,000,000 shall be made available under the heading "Foreign Military Financing" and not less than \$10,000,000 shall be made available under the heading "International Military*

Education and Training” to increase defense cooperation between the United States and the Republic of Armenia.

- *To inform the increase of future security assistance to Armenia, the Secretary of War is directed to submit a report to the relevant Congressional committees including 1) an assessment of the scale and nature of the threats to Armenia posed by Azerbaijan, 2) an evaluation of historical and current United States security assistance for Armenia, 3) identification of gaps in Armenia’s immediate and long-term defense needs, including defense articles, services, and military training, 4) a summary of immediate steps the Department of Defense is taking to increase security cooperation with Armenia; and 5) recommendations for further increasing security assistance for Armenia to address shortfalls in Armenia’s self-defense capabilities to deter aggression.*

Refugee Assistance for the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh

On September 19, 2023, Azerbaijan launched a full-scale invasion of Nagorno-Karabakh, resulting in the genocidal ethnic cleansing of the region’s entire indigenous Armenian population. This followed a 10-month siege on the region, which saw Azerbaijan deliberately deprive over 120,000 ethnic Armenians access to food, fuel, medicine and other essential goods. Forced from their homes, Nagorno-Karabakh’s displaced Armenian community fled to the Republic of Armenia, where they continue to face humanitarian challenges including access to housing, employment, and financial assistance.

Assistance from the U.S. and other international actors has been wholly insufficient to meet these families’ outstanding needs, especially considering the compounding pressure put on housing, food, and job markets in Armenia caused by recent influxes of refugees from Ukraine, Russia, and Iran. Furthermore, Azerbaijan’s continued refusal to guarantee the safe and secure return of Armenians to their homes, as required under international law, remains an ongoing obstacle to lasting peace in the region and threatens a long-term refugee crisis in Armenia. We ask you to include the following provision in the Humanitarian Accounts section of the bill to address these issues:

- *Of the funds appropriated by this Act, not less than \$100,000,000 shall be made available under the heading “Humanitarian Accounts” to support victims from Artsakh currently residing in the Republic of Armenia, who were forced to flee their ancestral homeland by Azerbaijan’s campaign of ethnic cleansing in 2023 and have the right to return to their homes under international guarantees.*

Secure Release of Hostages and Prohibition on U.S. Military Aid to Azerbaijan

Following a trilateral meeting with the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan at the White House last year on August 15th, President Trump [reauthorized](#) the presidential waiver of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act. The decision to reauthorize U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan following the prior Administration’s enforcement of Section 907 prohibitions in 2024 risks emboldening Azerbaijan’s belligerent conduct and undermines efforts to hold Azerbaijan accountable to the peace process.

Despite ongoing peace talks, Azerbaijan continues to engage in conduct that contradicts its stated commitment to peace. For instance, in early February, Azerbaijan [sentenced](#) 16 Armenian prisoners of war, including the former political leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh, to extended prison terms ranging from 15 years to life. These sentences followed lengthy sham trials, during which Armenian detainees were subject to abuse and [torture](#), and deprived of their fundamental legal rights. In September 2025, Azerbaijan [expelled](#) the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the only organization authorized to visit detainees, raising concerns for their safety and wellbeing. During recent remarks at the Munich Security Conference, Azerbaijan's President Aliyev [declared](#) that he would refuse to grant clemency to any Armenian detainees, which further undermines trust and confidence in the peace process.

In addition to the ongoing detention of Armenian detainees, Azerbaijan continues to engage in the systematic [destruction](#) of Armenian Christian heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh as well as the widespread [ransacking](#) of Armenian civilian property. This is an effort to deny the forcibly displaced Armenians the right to return to their homes by leaving them with nothing to return to. Azerbaijan also continues to occupy close to 100 square miles of sovereign Armenian territory following incursions into the country in 2021 and 2022, which is a clear threat to Armenia's security and sovereignty.

President Aliyev has repeatedly demonstrated that he is not an honest broker for peace in the region, and the U.S. must not reward his regime with security assistance of any kind. The failure to hold Azerbaijan accountable for its domestic human rights abuses, and its violations of international human rights, has emboldened Baku's belligerent conduct. In order to support the implementation of a just, durable, and dignified peace in the region, we request that you include the following provisions in the final legislation:

- *None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be provided to the Government of Azerbaijan through U.S. military or security assistance programs until the President certifies to Congress that Azerbaijan has taken demonstrable steps to ensure the unconditional release of all remaining Armenian detainees, the immediate withdrawal of Azerbaijani military forces from sovereign Armenian territory, guarantee the protection of Armenian cultural and civilian property in Nagorno-Karabakh, and recognize the fundamental right of forcibly displaced Armenians to return to their homes.*
- *The Departments of State and Treasury shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the applicability of targeted Global Magnitsky Act Sanctions against Azerbaijani officials involved in human rights abuses, including the unlawful sentencing and detention of Armenian detainees, as a means to achieve behavioral change.*

Strengthening the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP) Through Oversight on Investments in Azerbaijan

On August 8, 2025, the U.S. oversaw the signing of a joint declaration establishing the basis of opening communications for intra-state, bilateral, and international transportation passage between the Republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan under the framework of the "Trump Route for

International Peace and Prosperity” (TRIPP). Under the [agreement](#), Armenia must authorize the establishment of a “TRIPP Development Company,” which will grant the exclusive right to the development and management of a transportation route connecting Azerbaijan to Nakhichevan, an exclave, and Turkey through sovereign Armenian territory. A framework released earlier this year suggested that the United States would maintain a 74 percent share in the TRIPP Development Company, while Armenia would retain a 26 percent share. This arrangement is expected extend for an additional term of 50 years with a grant of additional equity to the government of Armenia bringing its share to 49 percent. The framework agreement would also allow for shareholders to engage in the sale, donation, merger or reorganization of shares subject to the prior consent of the parties.

While TRIPP represents a step toward promoting greater U.S. investment and engagement in Armenia, the framework agreement raises concerns regarding Armenia’s sovereignty and ownership rights over its sovereign territory, and the management and monitoring of customs and border checkpoints. There are also unanswered questions regarding the security of the route, especially assurances that the route will not be used to facilitate military transportation or arms sales between Turkey and Azerbaijan, which would undermine Armenia’s security interests.

In addition to ensuring oversight over the implementation and operation of TRIPP, we urge the committee to ensure U.S. commercial engagements with Azerbaijan do not materially enable or embolden ongoing violations of international law. We note with particular concern Azerbaijan’s solicitation of foreign investment to engage in the demolition, reconstruction and redevelopment of formerly Armenian-populated areas. As such, we request that you include the following provisions in the final legislation:

- *The Department of State shall report to the relevant Congressional committees on any planned foreign direct investment in TRIPP, the nature of U.S. technical assistance to Armenia and the role of U.S. implementing partners, the direct economic impact on Armenia, what guarantees exist to ensure the security of TRIPP in light of Azerbaijan’s ongoing occupation of Armenian territory, guarantees against the use of the route for military purposes, and what measures have been taken to ensure Armenia retains full sovereignty in light of its minority ownership stake in the TRIPP Development Company.*
- *The Departments of State and Commerce shall report to the relevant Congressional committees on any U.S.-based entities currently operating or investing in Azerbaijan, particularly in regions forcibly captured by Azerbaijan during and since the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War, and to evaluate whether the activities of these entities have materially aided Azerbaijan’s ongoing human rights violations and would qualify for recourse under the Alien Tort Statute and the Torture Victim Protection Act.*

Thank you for your leadership on the Subcommittee. We appreciate your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



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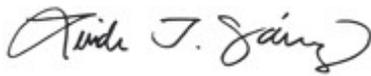
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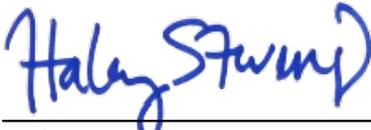
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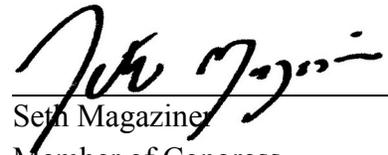
Joyce Beatty
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Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



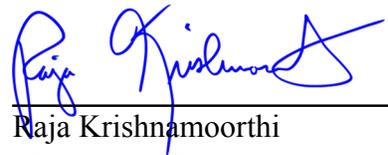
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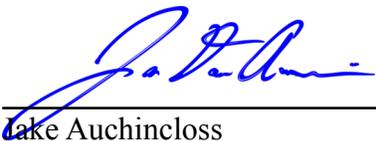
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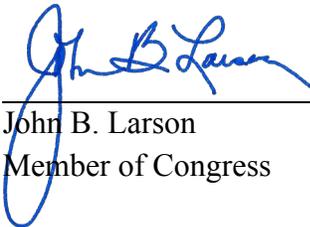
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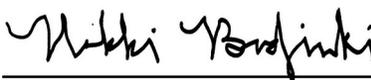
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