



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

State Capitol, PO Box 8953, Madison, Wisconsin 53708

December 7, 2020 – Delivered Electronically

Esteemed members of Wisconsin's Congressional delegation,

On September 27, 2020, Azerbaijan, with direct assistance from Turkey, attacked the democratic Armenian Republic of Nagorno Karabagh. For the next 6 weeks, Azerbaijan intentionally bombarded civilian populations and infrastructure which resulted in the forced displacement of 110,000 out of 150,000 Armenians living in Nagorno Karabagh, used banned cluster bomb and white phosphorus munitions, and included Syrian Jihadist mercenaries in their ranks. The ensuing peace agreement, negotiated exclusively by Russia and Turkey, is reducing Nagorno Karabagh to half its size, does not guarantee the right of self-determination to the Armenian population of Nagorno Karabagh, and provides a communication and transportation link across Armenia from Turkey to Azerbaijan.

We need your help. For almost 20 years, Armenian-Americans living in Wisconsin have come to the State Capitol to commemorate the 1915-1923 Armenian Genocide by the Ottoman Turkish Empire and have warned that by not holding Turkey accountable for this crime, the world has allowed additional crimes of genocide, such as the Jewish Holocaust, to occur. Similarly, by not holding Azerbaijan and Turkey accountable for their recent crimes in Nagorno Karabagh, the world will allow for similar crimes to occur.

We, the undersigned, a bipartisan coalition of the Wisconsin State Legislature, strongly encourage you, if you have not already, to support the following:

United States Senate:

SR 754: A resolution requesting information on the Government of Azerbaijan's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

SR 755: A resolution requesting information on the Government of Turkey's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

House of Representatives:

HR 1165: Condemning Azerbaijan's military operation in Nagorno-Karabakh and denouncing Turkish interference in the conflict.

HR 1203: Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives supporting the Republic of Artsakh at all levels of civil society and government and recognizing the people of Artsakh's inalienable right to self-determination.

In addition, we encourage you to contact the President of the United States and ask that he withdraw the current waiver of Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, so that the United States may terminate aid to Azerbaijan's Government until it takes necessary action to end its illegal and inhumane actions toward the Armenian people.

(Continued on next page)



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Sincerely,

Sen. Chris Larson
7th Senate District

Sen. Lena Taylor
4th Senate District

Sen Tim Carpenter
3rd Senate District

Sen. Jeff Smith
31st Senate District

Sen. Van Wanggaard
21st Senate District

Sen. Bob Wirsch
22nd Senate District

Rep. Jimmy Anderson
47th Assembly District

Rep. Don Vruwink
43rd Assembly District

Rep. Samantha Kerkman
61st Assembly District

Rep. Michael Schraa
53rd Assembly District

Rep. Tip McGuire
64th Assembly District

Rep. Gary Hebl
46th Assembly District

Rep. Ron Tusler
3rd Assembly District

Rep. Evan Goyke
18th Assembly District

Rep. Tyler Vorpagel
27th Assembly District

Rep. LaKeshia Myers
12th Assembly District

Rep. Jason Fields
11th Assembly District

Rep. Bob Kulp
69th Assembly District

Rep. Jill Billings
95th Assembly District

Rep. John Spiros
86th Assembly District