United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 20, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge you to join us in reaffirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide in your April 24th commemorative statement.

This date marks the 91st anniversary of the systematic and deliberate campaign of genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire in 1915. Over an eight year period, one and a half million Armenians were tortured and murdered, and more than half a million were forced from their homeland into exile. The victims of the Genocide deserve our remembrance and their rightful place in history.

The memory of the Armenian Genocide underscores our responsibility to speak forcefully about our respect for fundamental human rights and opposition to mass slaughters. It is in the best interests of our nation and the entire global community to remember the past and learn from these crimes against humanity to ensure that they are never repeated. We respectfully request that you refer to the mass slaughter of Armenians as genocide in your commemorative statement. This would continue a groundbreaking and honorable chapter in U.S. diplomatic history.

We look forward to your April 24th statement and stand ready to assist you in this endeavor and in the many other matters of importance to our nation related to Armenia and the South Caucasus region.

Sincerely,

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