

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. _____

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the recent free and fair parliamentary elections and transfer of power in Armenia, reaffirming the critical importance of the United States-Armenia partnership, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PALLONE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the recent free and fair parliamentary elections and transfer of power in Armenia, reaffirming the critical importance of the United States-Armenia partnership, and for other purposes.

Whereas the United States formally recognized the independence of the Republic of Armenia almost a century ago on April 23, 1920, through a letter from Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby to the Representative of the Armenian Republic, Garegin Pasdermadjian, informing him of President Woodrow Wilson's decision;

Whereas the United States recognized the reestablishment of Armenia's independence following seven decades of Soviet rule on December 25, 1991, when President George H. W. Bush announced this decision in an address regarding the dissolution of the Soviet Union;

Whereas the people of the Republic of Armenia showed their commitment to democracy, anticorruption measures, and rule of law during their nonviolent "Velvet Revolution" between April and May of 2018, leading to the peaceful transfer of executive leadership;

Whereas the Velvet Revolution culminated in the December 9, 2018, national parliamentary elections that "were held with respect for fundamental freedoms and enjoyed broad public trust that needs to be preserved through further electoral reforms", according to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) election observation mission;

Whereas the longstanding friendship of the American and Armenian peoples reinforced during decades of principled United States leadership for Armenian independence from Soviet tyranny, and expanded, in the years since Armenia's reborn independence, through regional and international security cooperation, and mutually beneficial bilateral political, economic, military, democracy, and development partnerships;

Whereas almost a century after the United States first formally recognized the independence of the Republic of Armenia the bilateral political, economic, and strategic partnership between the two countries continues to flourish;

Whereas United States-Armenia ties are deeply rooted in shared democratic values, the United States' enduring

commitment to Armenia's independence, and a common vision of regional peace and global security, as reflected in Armenia's membership in NATO's Partnership for Peace and its record of deployments as part of United States-led peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Kosovo, and Mali;

Whereas President Donald Trump, in a September 21, 2018, message to Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, stated, "We thank you for your steadfast partnership on many fronts, including contributing to NATO operations and showing great generosity in welcoming Syrian refugees";

Whereas Armenia remains constructively engaged in the OSCE Minsk Group process, co-chaired by the United States, which seeks to strengthen the 1994 ceasefire agreement signed by Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno Karabakh, and to facilitate a durable and democratic peace;

Whereas Armenia's aid-to-trade transition requires continued United States leadership on trade and investment promotion, upgraded engagement through the Economic Task Force and Trade and Investment Framework Agreement Council, and the exploration of mutually beneficial economic accords; and

Whereas continued United States investment into initiatives that further government transparency, strengthen democratic institutions, and empower civil society in Armenia will only help to bolster the historic ties and friendship between the two countries: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) celebrates almost a century of United
2 States-Armenia relations, the enduring friendship of
3 the American and Armenian peoples, the strong
4 bonds between the two governments, and the many
5 contributions Americans of Armenian heritage con-
6 tinue to make to the United States;

7 (2) honors and congratulates the people of Ar-
8 menia on their peaceful and constitutional leadership
9 transition and the December 9, 2018, democratic
10 parliamentary elections broadly recognized as free
11 and fair; and

12 (3) calls for continued United States leadership
13 in helping empower the Armenian people to solidify
14 their progress by strengthening United States-Arme-
15 nia relations through bilateral visits, defense con-
16 sultations to draw Armenia closer to the United
17 States, increased cooperation on international peace-
18 keeping operations, targeted trade and investment
19 promotion, and support for political party develop-
20 ment, transparency, rule of law, civil society develop-
21 ment, and media freedom.