



# The need for change:

## The Obama-Biden Record of Support for Armenian American Issues

**Both Senators Barack Obama and Joe Biden have longstanding records of support for the full range of issues of special concern to Armenian American voters.**

### **The Obama Record in the U.S. Senate:**

- \* In September 2008, Sen. Obama issued a statement on Armenia's Independence.  
[http://www.anca.org/press\\_releases/press\\_releases.php?prid=1590](http://www.anca.org/press_releases/press_releases.php?prid=1590)
- \* In June 2008, Sen. Obama submitted numerous questions on the Armenian Genocide to the nominee to be Ambassador to Armenia.
- \* In April 2008, Sen. Obama issued a statement commemorating the Armenian Genocide.  
[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?dbname=2008\\_record&page=S3438&position=all](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?dbname=2008_record&page=S3438&position=all)
- \* In January, 2008, Sen. Obama issued a statement on U.S.-Armenia relations”  
[http://www.barackobama.com/2008/01/19/barack\\_obama\\_on\\_the\\_importance.php](http://www.barackobama.com/2008/01/19/barack_obama_on_the_importance.php)
- \* In September 2007, Sen. Obama sent a letter to Secretary of State Rice expressing concern and requesting more information about the plight of Christians in Iraq, including Armenians in Iraq.  
<http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/query/C?r110:./temp/~r110gO6Jld>
- \* On July 28, 2006, Sen. Obama sent a letter to Secretary of State Rice criticizing the firing of Ambassador Evans for recognizing the Armenian Genocide.
- \* In both 2005 and 2006, Sen. Obama cosigned Senatorial sign-on letters to President Bush urging him to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

### **The Biden Record in the U.S. Senate:**

- \* In September 2008, the nominee to be Ambassador to Turkey admitted, after questioning by Sen. Biden, that American diplomats during the Ottoman Empire did indeed document Ottoman Turkey's intent to exterminate the Armenian population.  
[http://www.anca.org/press\\_releases/press\\_releases.php?prid=1603](http://www.anca.org/press_releases/press_releases.php?prid=1603)  
[http://www.anca.org/assets/pdf/misc/092408\\_tambnomination/Biden\\_Responses\\_092608.pdf](http://www.anca.org/assets/pdf/misc/092408_tambnomination/Biden_Responses_092608.pdf)
- \* In July 2008, the State Department responded to Sen. Biden's inquiries concerning the Administration's policy on the Armenian Genocide, which include critical admissions stating that the Administration “hold Ottoman officials responsible for . . . crimes [committed against Armenians.]”

- \* In June 2008, Sen. Biden submitted numerous questions to the nominee to be Ambassador to Armenia, concerning the Armenian Genocide, Turkey's blockade, and Azerbaijan's alarming war rhetoric.
- \* On April 24, 2008, Sen. Biden issued a statement commemorating the Armenian Genocide, as he has done for numerous years dating back to the 1980s.  
[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?dbname=2008\\_record&page=S3391&position=all](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?dbname=2008_record&page=S3391&position=all)
- \* In 2007, Sen. Biden authored resolution condemning murder of Hrant Dink and urging tolerance in Turkey.  
<http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/D?d110,d110:3:./temp/~bduVnd:@@@P|/bss/d110query.html>
- \* On August 24, 2006, Sen. Biden wrote a follow-up letter to Secretary Rice outlining concerns regarding the firing of Ambassador Evans', the Administration's policy towards the Armenian Genocide, and Turkey's blockade of Armenia.
- \* In August 1, 2006, Sen. Biden postponed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's consideration of Amb. Hoagland until the State Department provided answers concerning the firing of Amb. Evans for recognizing the Armenian Genocide.  
[http://www.anca.org/press\\_releases/press\\_releases.php?prid=985](http://www.anca.org/press_releases/press_releases.php?prid=985)
- \* In June 2006, Sen. Biden submitted numerous questions to the nominee to be Ambassador to Armenia Richard Hoagland.  
[http://www.anca.org/assets/graphics/2006/hoagland/biden\\_hoagland\\_resp.pdf](http://www.anca.org/assets/graphics/2006/hoagland/biden_hoagland_resp.pdf)
- \* On June 23, 2006, Sen. Biden wrote a letter to Secretary of State Rice stating that he would not be prepared to allow the nominee to replace Ambassador to Armenia John Evans to move forward until the State Department answered questions concerning the firing of Ambassador Evans and the involvement of the Turkish government in his firing.  
[http://www.anca.org/assets/graphics/2006/hoagland/biden\\_let.pdf](http://www.anca.org/assets/graphics/2006/hoagland/biden_let.pdf)
- \* In April of 2005, Sen. Biden cosigned a Senate sign-on letter to President Bush urging him to recognize the Armenian Genocide.
- \* In August, 2003, Sen. Biden placed a "hold" on a Bush Administration request to increase military aid to Azerbaijan, ensuring that military aid parity between Armenia and Azerbaijan is maintained.
- \* In 1999, Sen. Biden voted to maintain Section 907, which restricts aid to Azerbaijan because of its blockade of Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia. (Senator McCain voted to strip Section 907 and allow aid to Azerbaijan).
- \* In 1995, Sen. Biden cosponsored the D'Amato bill to cut \$500,000 a day in US aid to Turkey until it meets several human rights conditions, including ending its blockade of Armenia.
- \* In 1995, Sen. Biden supported the D'Amato amendment to cut aid to Turkey in half. (Senator McCain opposed this amendment).
- \* Cosponsored every Armenian Genocide resolution in the Senate, dating back to 1984.
- \* Supported Nagorno Karabakh's right to self-determination dating back to 1990.