

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 3086
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4025
FAX (916) 651-4925

GLENDALE DISTRICT OFFICE
116 E. BROADWAY
SUITE 204
GLENDALE, CA 91205
TEL (818) 409-0400
FAX (818) 409-1256

SATELLITE OFFICE
201 EAST BONITA AVE.
SAN DIMAS, CA 91773
TEL (909) 599-7351
FAX (909) 599-7692

SENATOR.PORTANTINO@SENATE.CA.GOV

California State Senate

ANTHONY J. PORTANTINO
SENATOR
TWENTY-FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT



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August 7, 2021

Assyrian American Association of Southern California
5901 Cahuenga Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91601

Dear Friends,

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts on Assyrian Martyrs Day as we remember and pay tribute to our Assyrian brothers and sisters who fell victim to genocide, persecution and other mass atrocities.

This year's commemoration of the 106th Anniversary of the genocide against Assyrians, Armenians and Greeks, follows the war in Artsakh where Assyrians and Armenians stood united against Azerbaijan and Turkey's unprovoked aggression. While the atrocities that took place can never be undone, we must appropriately embrace history.

I am grateful to President Biden for his leadership in ending Turkey's decades long-gag rule by officially and properly recognizing the genocide. We have a moral obligation to condemn all genocides and hold perpetrators accountable.

To quote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., *"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."*

Unfortunately, we have seen a rise in hatred and prejudice against ethnic communities in our state. This year more than ever we must be united in reaffirming our condemnation of injustice and civil rights abuses.

California is home to a vibrant Assyrian-American community who contributes to our rich cultural diversity. Today, I would like to celebrate the resiliency of the Assyrian community who overcame horrible atrocities and continues to persevere and demand justice for human rights violations. Thank you for your leadership, collaborative partnerships and contributions to our great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anthony J. Portantino'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Anthony' being the most prominent.

Anthony J. Portantino
State Senator, 25th District