



March 2, 2026

**Re: Vote Immediately on H.Con.Res. 38 and S.J.Res. 104 to Terminate Hostilities  
Against Iran**

Dear Member of Congress,

I write on behalf of DAWN to urge you to call on congressional leadership to bring H.Con.Res. 38 and S.J.Res. 104 to the floor for a clean vote, and then to vote in favor of both resolutions to terminate United States military hostilities against Iran.

DAWN is a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., dedicated to promoting democracy, the rule of law, and human rights for the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa, and to reforming US foreign policy toward the region. DAWN was founded by journalist Jamal Khashoggi, who was murdered by the Saudi government in 2018.

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress, not the President, the sole authority to declare war. The War Powers Resolution of 1973, passed over Nixon's veto, is explicit: the President may commit forces to hostilities without congressional authorization in only three circumstances. Not one of them applies here.

First, pursuant to a declaration of war. There is none, and no attempt was made to obtain one. President Trump announced "major combat operations" against Iran via social media at 2:30 a.m. EST on Saturday, February 28, 2026.

Second, pursuant to specific statutory authorization. The 2001 AUMF covers the perpetrators of the September 11 attacks; Iran is not among them. The 2002 Iraq AUMF was repealed by the FY2026 National Defense Authorization Act signed in December 2025. No other statutory authorization covering Iran exists.

Third, a national emergency created by an attack upon the United States, its territories, or its armed forces. Iran had not attacked the United States. The US military buildup against Iran took weeks. The Omani Foreign Minister stood in Washington the day before the strikes and described a diplomatic breakthrough in nuclear talks. The administration's own Pentagon briefers acknowledged to congressional staff on March 1 that Iran was not planning to strike US forces or bases in the region unless Israel attacked Iran first, directly undercutting the White House's claim that Tehran posed an imminent threat. There was no attack to respond to and no emergency that could not have been brought to Congress.

The question before Congress is not whether to authorize this war retroactively. Given that none of these conditions have been met, this war has been illegal under US domestic law from the moment it began, and no congressional vote can change that. The question before you is whether to end it now, and Congress has the power to do so.

Under Section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, Congress may direct the removal of US forces from hostilities at any time by concurrent resolution without waiting for any clock to expire and without the President's signature. Representatives Khanna and Massie have announced they will force a floor vote on H.Con.Res. 38, introduced in June 2025 with 84 cosponsors. Senators Kaine, Paul, and Schumer have introduced S.J.Res. 104 in the Senate under expedited War Powers procedures that bypass the filibuster. A vote in favor of both resolutions would constitute a direct, binding order to the President as Commander in Chief to end hostilities.

DAWN urges you to take two concrete actions. First, call on your chamber's leadership to bring these resolutions to the floor for a clean vote on the merits. War powers resolutions are privileged under House and Senate rules, meaning any member may call them up — but leadership retains the ability to move a preliminary motion to table or refer to committee, killing the resolution before any vote on the war itself. That procedural maneuver would allow members to avoid going on the record about the most consequential question before Congress. You should publicly oppose any such motion and demand a vote on the substance. Second, when the resolutions reach the floor, vote in favor.

A vote against these resolutions, or a failure to vote at all, is a vote to grant this president, and every future president, the unilateral power to launch wars of this scale without the knowledge or consent of the American people's elected representatives. The Constitution does not permit that outcome. Congress has the power to prevent it. The question is whether it has the will.

Respectfully submitted,

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