

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

August 1, 2019

The Honorable James Inhofe  
Chairman,  
Senate Committee on Armed Services  
228 Russel Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member,  
Senate Committee on Armed Services  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Chairman,  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
Ranking Member,  
House Armed Services Committee  
2216 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Inhofe, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Thornberry:

As you work towards a final conference report for the Fiscal Year 2020 NDAA, we write to express our strong support for the inclusion of a bipartisan amendment to prohibit an unauthorized and unconstitutional war with Iran.

House Amendment 423, a bipartisan amendment offered by Representatives Ro Khanna (D-CA), Matt Gaetz (R-FL), and 86 additional members was adopted by a strong bipartisan vote of 251 to 170. A bipartisan majority of the Senate also supported a similar amendment offered by Senators Tom Udall (D-NM) and Rand Paul (R-KY). Both of these amendments would prohibit the use of funds for military force against Iran unless authorized by Congress or such use of force is consistent with the War Powers Resolution.

We have no illusions about the potential threats that Iran may pose or its destabilizing activities in the Middle East. These bipartisan amendments do not interfere with the United States Armed Forces' ability to defend themselves. But under our constitution, any war requires congressional authorization.

Bipartisan majorities in both chambers have spoken up to defend Congress' constitutional authority over matters of war and peace. With regional tensions high, the risk of the U.S. entering into war with Iran without authorization remains acute. As a result, we believe that the final conference report for the FY 2020 NDAA must include the bipartisan amendment to prohibit an unauthorized and unconstitutional war with Iran.

Thank you for your work on the FY 2020 NDAA and we look forward to working with you on this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



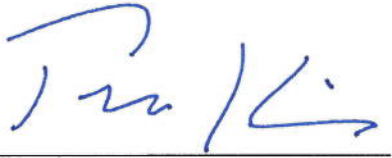
Rand Paul  
United States Senator



Ro Khanna  
United States Representative



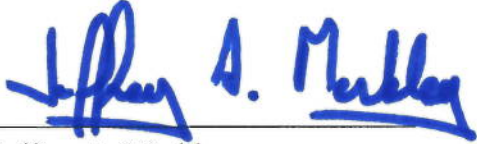
Matt Gaetz  
United States Representative



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



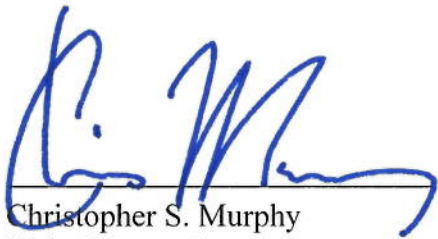
Michael S. Lee  
United States Senator




Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



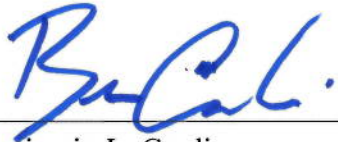
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator




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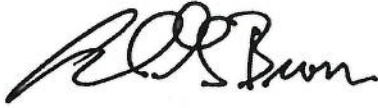
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



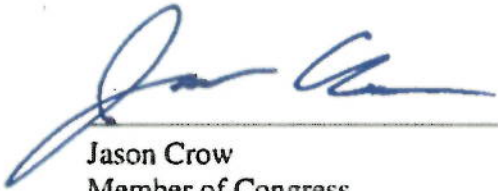
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Anthony Brown  
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



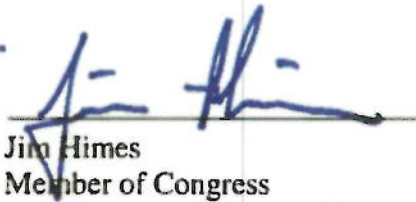
Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



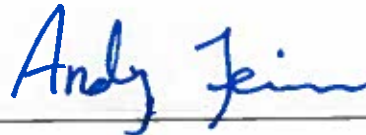
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Andy Levin  
Member of Congress



Francis Rooney  
Member of Congress