



Please Support Repeal of the 2002 Iraq AUMF Congress Must Decide When the U.S. Goes to War

This year, for the first time in 17 years, a chamber of Congress voted to repeal the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force against Iraq (2002 Iraq AUMF). In July, by a bipartisan vote of 242-180, the House adopted an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to repeal this authorization. The Senate version of the NDAA does not include this provision. We urge House and Senate negotiators to include the repeal of the 2002 Iraq AUMF in the final NDAA.

Repealing the 2002 Iraq AUMF would be a first step toward Congress reasserting its constitutional authority over when the United States goes to war. Article II of the Constitution gives the president, as Commander-in-Chief, the authority to use limited military force without congressional approval to defend the United States against a sudden or imminent attack. But under Article I of the Constitution, Congress has the sole authority to decide whether to allow the president to take the country into a prolonged war.

As a Quaker organization, FCNL opposes all war. As a matter of public policy, we believe Congress must debate and vote before the president commits our military to lethal action and should regularly evaluate and vote on whether to continue ongoing U.S. wars. We urge members of Congress to publicly support and encourage House and Senate Armed Services Committee leadership to include the 2002 Iraq AUMF repeal in the final NDAA.

The 2002 Iraq AUMF should be repealed because:

- **It is no longer relevant.** The Saddam Hussein regime was overthrown in 2003 and a formal end to the U.S. mission in Iraq was declared at the end of 2011.
- **It is not needed for existing operations.** Repeal would have no impact on the ability of the administration to continue current military operations. The administration acknowledges it is only using the 2002 AUMF to reinforce its authority under the 2001 AUMF for some operations.
- **It creates the potential for abuse.** The Trump administration's assertion that the 2002 Iraq AUMF now authorizes force against "threats to, or stemming from, Iraq" opens the possibility this language will be used to justify new military actions. Congress should remove the ability of the administration to further expand the scope of the 2002 Iraq AUMF to justify unforeseen and unauthorized new wars.

Please urge Armed Services Committee leadership to include the House provision to repeal the 2002 Iraq AUMF in the final NDAA.

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November 2019