

Shoshana Abrams: Friends hello, I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and it's really good to be back with you. This is our first FCNL advocacy team call of 2020, we're gathered as 123 teams across 41 states and we've been lobbying for peace and justice for quite a while now and especially this year we're continuing our campaign to end endless war. And as Teresa has said, my name is Shoshana Abrams and FCNL's advocacy team manager. And I'm really happy to be in this space with you all tonight after all these events. I'm really excited to go through this material to hear from our guest speaker and to learn from you all together. So, tonight's agenda, we have wonderful guest, we're here from Congressman Ro Khanna and you'll have a chance to ask questions as well. We have a great story from the Lancaster Pennsylvania team about a recent media breakthrough they had because of all their hard work last year.

Shoshana Abrams: And then I want to introduce you to FCNL's legislative manager on Middle East Policy who's our lobbyists for the year, his name is Hassan El-Tayyab. He'll give an update on the policy that will be working on this year and you'll get a chance to ask lots of questions for him. And then at the end of the call, I'll walk us through what our next action is, and we'll have some announcements to close us out. Tonight, we have Teresa Ruggs providing her wonderful tech support. Everyone is muted. If we hear feedback, I'll ask Teresa to renew the lines, the answer the question and answer part of the call, I'll queue you. But what you do is you press star six to unmute, and star six three, mute yourself after you ask a question.

Shoshana Abrams: So we like to start off these calls with a quote and I was searching through some documents and I found part of a statement that was approved by the Friends National Conference on world order that was held at Earlham College in 1961. And this piece is just part of a reading and it's entitled what is peace? Peace is a shelter for all that we love. It is the only house in which men can now live. Peace is love conquering fear. It is a lively concern for all men, for friend and for rival for the lovely Earth, for love and for joy. Peace is world order, political institutions. There's justice and the control over the strong. It is mercy and restraint over the merciless. This peace comes neither from surrender nor from war. It must be hoped for or we fall into a reputable despair. It must be planned for even on the brink of disaster, and even beyond disaster.

Shoshana Abrams: So with all of that in mind, thank you friends. Let's get started with our call. So I would like to welcome and thank Representative Ro Khanna for joining us tonight. Congressman, are you on the line? [silence]. Representative Khanna, are you on the line with us?

Kate: Hey Shoshana, this is Kate. We are trying to get in touch with him. He did and I know... Yeah, so we're still trying to get in touch with it. Maybe Could you go with the other parts of the call first?

Shoshana Abrams: Absolutely. Just let us know when he's available. Thank you so much. Okay, so we are going to switch things around. And I am going to ask Hassan El-Tayyab, are you on the line, our lobbyists on this issue?

Hassan El-Tayya: I am, yeah.

Shoshana Abrams: Wonderful. Okay, so let me introduce you all to the lobbyist that we're working with this year, Hassan El-Tayyab as FCNL's lead lobbyist on Middle East Policy is also responsible for representing FCNL with various Coalition's that we work on on this issue. Prior to joining us FCNL, in August 2019, he was co director for the National advocacy group, that's foreign policy. Where he led their lobbying work to advance a more progressive foreign policy in the Middle East in Latin America. He played a major role in the successful passage of the War Powers Resolution, and to end US military aid to the Saudi UAE Coalition war in Yemen. Hassan has been so busy meeting with some 20 offices over the past two or three days in an effort to stop this drumbeat for war, and we're very lucky to have him at FCNL and on our call tonight. So, without further ado Hassan, Why don't you tell us what's going on between the US and Iran and what we should do about it?

Hassan el-Tayya: Hey, thank you so much, Shoshana, and thank you so much to all the great work all the FCNL advocacy teams have done on so many of these issues getting Congress to reassert its war authority. It's wonderful to be part of this amazing family. Let's start. On December 29, the United States bombed Khateeb Hezbollah, that's an Iraq militia and the Popular Mobilization Units PMU facilities. The airstrikes were us retaliation for an earlier death of an American private security contractor in Cacook, Iraq. And that the Trump administration attributed to this Iraq Shia militia. And following that strike, the US responded and we sent airstrikes and we killed 29 and injured about 50 unarmed Iraq's... sorry, 50 of the Shia militias and in response to that an armed Iraq stormed and briefly occupied parts of the US Embassy in Baghdad.

Hassan El-Tayya: So things were really heating up, there were no casualties at that moment. But the Trump administration on January 2 decided to assassinate Kassim Suleimani in a drone strike. And that was done without congressional authorization or consultation. And I think that's really important. And the events has been escalating and spiraling. And we were all waiting for it. There were about three or four days of mourning in Iran, and across the Middle East. Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets and we were all anxiously waiting for what the response was going to be. Well, last night we saw an attack on two US Air sorry, two US bases in Iraq. And there ended up being no casualties to US soldiers which we thank God that happened.

Hassan El-Tayya: And many of you probably saw Trump basically give a press conference today, calling for slapping more sanctions on Iran. But saying that other than that, probably would not respond in force again. Now, this is obviously a very fragile situation. And no one at this point truly knows what's going to happen. But this

is where we're at. Now, I think it's important to kind of note where the history of all this came from, while both the US and Iran are escalating, the crisis in the Middle East through confrontations on multiple fronts. There's really no question. I think that the origins of this crisis originate with the Trump administration's decision to withdraw from the JCP away or the Iran nuclear agreement. And escalating the military pressure and economic sanctions on Iran and their maximum pressure campaign.

Hassan El-Tayya: But, we can't just fault the Trump administration. A lot of the responsibility for this tragedy, also, can fall into Congress's hands. so many of the folks here worked on repealing the 2002 Iraq AUMF, and obviously because of that, that article one Section of the Constitution states really clearly that only Congress has the power to declare war, not the president. And Congress struck from language from the NDAA, the National Defense Authorization Act, to repeal the 2002, Iraq AUMF and to strip out a provision that would have prevented an unauthorized war with Iran. So, that's where we're at. There's responsibility to go around on a lot of parts. Now, I think it's important there was a classified briefing today about the attack and what was going on with that. The Trump administration claim that it has legal authorities under the 2001 AUMF to authorize use for military force.

Hassan El-Tayya: And they also said the 2002, Iraq AUMF also justified that force. But, Congress push back and a lot of these members, I've heard in the reports from my lobby visit that they were not satisfied and they reject the idea that there was any authorization. So right now, Congress is responding in several ways. One, there actually is going to be a vote tomorrow on representative Slotkin Iran War Powers Resolution in the house. And then shortly thereafter, we expect that will come up in the Senate that there's another resolution introduced by Senator Kaine and S.J Res 63. And we are looking at some of the votes if anybody rep, sorry, a Senator re applaud it and they just announced their support which is really wonderful.

Hassan El-Tayya: Also representative Khanna when he gets on the line, he'll probably talk a little bit about his resolution also, HR 5543, the no war against Iran Act. And, so we're following those closely. It's important to contact your representatives tomorrow-

Ro Khanna: I've been on the call, this is Khanna.

Hassan El-Tayya: Hey, welcome.

Ro Khanna: Hey.

Shoshana Abrams: Hello. Is that Congressman Khanna?

Ro Khanna: Yeah. So I've just been listening. I appreciate the summary. And it's great to see better leads, better reports and they'll take the support, but appreciate your having me on.

Hassan El-Tayya: Yeah. Wonderful. Welcome... Go ahead.

Shoshana Abrams: Thank you Hassan and we'll come back to you in just a bit. Representative Khanna thank you so much for being with us on the call. I want to give a little bit of an introduction, and then I'll let you speak to us. So as you know FCNL quite well, you've joined advocacy team on our national call before in 2018. And we've grown a lot since then. Our advocates on 123 teams across the country have been working on ending endless war and on Congress taking back with authority over these issues of warranties. And we had some great movement forward last year, even though we didn't win on the NDAA. This year, we're continuing to work to prevent the escalation of war with Iran and also to end US support for the Saudi war in Yemen. For all of our advocacy teams on the line, I'd like to just take a moment to introduce this congressman Lamb Khanna represents California 17th congressional district. Representative Khanna sits on the House Budget, armed services and oversight and reform committees, and he is first vice chair for the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Shoshana Abrams: He also serves as assistant whip for the Democratic Caucus. Prior to being elected to Congress representative Khanna was a professor of economics, a lawyer and served as a lawyer and he served in President Barrack Obama's administration as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the US Department of Commerce. Representative Khanna is a leading progressive foreign policy voice in the house. In 2018 FCNL honored him with the Edward Snyder Award for his courageous work to prevent war in North Korea to end US support for the Saudi led war in Yemen and to strengthen diplomacy abroad. Since then, Representative Khanna has continued those efforts and we are grateful. Congressman, we are honored to have you with us tonight. I'm hoping you can answer two questions for us.

Shoshana Abrams: One, as you know we're an organization that works from stories and we tell our stories to our members of Congress. And we would love to know why you are so moved to work on this as an individual. And then two, how can we help you move Congress to stop a war with Iran and stop the expanding wars that we're seeing? So with that, we're looking forward to hearing from you and thanks again for being with us On the call.

Ro Khanna: Thank you. Thank you so much for inviting me on this call and for your generous introduction. But more importantly, for all of your work and the work of advocates across the country. You have all made an incredible difference in helping stop of war in Yemen. Of course, the war continues, but with our core Powers Resolution, that all of us passed last year led to the suspension of refueling of Saudi flames in parts of the ceasefire in Hondata. And has shone a light on the credible suffering in Yemen. And your work has been incredible on

that regard. And I appreciate the work you did on North Korea. In fact, I just spoke today with one of the President's senior advisors, was talking about the need for us to continue to push for the resolution. Calling for a formal peace and ending the current ongoing war there and helping resume negotiation.

Ro Khanna: My interest in human rights stems from my own background and experience. I was born in Philadelphia but my parents are immigrants from India and my maternal grandfather spent four years in jail during India's independent alongside Ghazi and Yarrow and other independence leaders. And he was part of the Ghazi movements for ending colonialism and also standing up for human rights. So he had an incredibly large footprint in our family and his work on human rights, his work on non violence, his work for to promote no war is something that has inspired me since I've been young and certainly inspired by public service. My first foray into electoral politics was running against the Iraq War in 2003. I lost badly in that election, but that spirit of wanting to stop these wars has continued.

Ro Khanna: And I appreciate very much the efforts around this advocacy group on Iran. We have a three pronged approach to the efforts to stop the war in Iran. First, we need to get behind the War Powers Resolution. It has the support of everyone in our caucus progressive and moderate wing. And we need to get this passed and make sure that it passes not just the house, but the Senate. And the Senate is going to be the more difficult one to see that we first retain all of the Democrats. And also that we can get some moderate Republicans and of course, Rand Paul and Mike Lee heading on board house. So your advocacy to make sure that the War Powers Resolution passes will make a difference. But ultimately, what really will end this war is funding. I mean, that's really Congress's power, we can cut off funding for these wars. We've unfortunately been reluctant to do that. With the war in Iraq, with the war in Afghanistan. But we've seen that president will disregard authorizations the force or misinterpret authorization of it. But they have no ability to push back against at all funding cuts.

Ro Khanna: And that is what my bill will do. It says that Congress will not appropriate a dime for any offensive strike in Iran or any offensive strike against Iranian officials. If we need an overwhelming vote to the house, Senator Sanders is introducing it in the Senate, we need a vote in the Senate and push for that vote. And then we need to make sure that the fight continues during the defense appropriations process. And that we're willing to have a line item appropriation that zeros out any funding for war in Iran. So those are the main efforts, of Barbara Lee has an excellent bill to repeal the 2002 authorization of force that this administration is relying on. And then also we'll get a vote and what we want to see an overwhelming vote to that. I would say those are the main three efforts with Iran, and we would love your continued advocacy on these issues.

Shoshana Abrams: Thank you so much, Representative Khanna, do you have some time for questions from our network?

Ro Khanna: Sure.

Shoshana Abrams: Wonderful. If you have a question for Representative Lamb Khanna, go ahead and press star six and say your name and then I'll recognize you speak.

Sarah Avery: Hello, this is Sarah Avery with the Colorado advocacy team. And thank you so much, Representative Khanna, for all your work and for being with us tonight. My question is, we've been having this conversation with some of our members for a long time. And some of us are pretty frustrated with members to keep saying, well, we don't want to try the president hand. I'm just wondering if you think there is any way that we can, now is there any angle we can come from that new to push members who say they're reluctant and they don't want to tie the presidents hand?

Ro Khanna: I appreciate that. I think you can say that the President has under the War Powers, always the rights for self defense. But this President has shown that he's going to abuse that. I mean, if there really was an imminent attack on US and the US troops, the administration could have attacked warehouses. They couldn't have attacked their emulation facilities, they could have actually attack the militia on the ground to prevent an attack. But to call the killing of a senior political military leader of another sovereign states, an act of self defense shows that they have no regard or the statute or legal principles. So, when you have a president respecting the cultural sites in place, violation of the 1954 Hague convention of cultural property, a treaty that was ratified by the Senate at the urging of George W. Bush. Then you know you're dealing with a president who doesn't respect international law. So I would argue that this President absolutely needs his hands tied. He needs his hands tied to law through international law, to the rule of law.

Ro Khanna: And we don't live in a monarchy or dictatorship. We live in a democracy where public officials have to act consistent with the law. But nothing we're doing is taking away our ability to act in self defense. What we're doing is taking away the President's ability to exercise arbitrary and unjust power.

Sarah Avery: Thank you so much.

Shoshana Abrams: Thank you. Others go ahead and press star six and say your name and I will recognize you.

Milwaukee: James Milwaukee-

Speaker 7: This is Jean [inaudible 00:20:27].

Shoshana Abrams: Okay, let's start with Milwaukee, please.

Milwaukee: Yes. The thing with legislation to cut off funding for a war, does that bill have a number yet? And secondly, can the house stand by themselves without cooperation of the senate? That's the question.

Ro Khanna: That Bill does not have a number yet. The house had passed that bill as an amendment in the National Defense Authorization Act. And several authorities argue that we should not have given the Pentagon 738 billion dollars unless they kept that amendment in. But the amendment was stripped in the negotiations on the conference report for the National Defense Authorization. And Senator Sanders and I blasted the National Defense Authorization, saying it was a blank check to the Pentagon. In retrospect, had we kept my amendment in, it would have prevented the war in Iran, it would have prevented the offensive strike that would have been prohibited.

Ro Khanna: And we we didn't do that. And as a result, we're in the mess that we are in. Now we can again try to pass this. It will require the Senate to actively come along, but it sets down a marker that even if the senate doesn't approve it, the house has the unilateral power in the power of the purse to stop funding. And that fight will take place in the defense appropriations process. We need to fight then to implement what my bill will call for, which is no funding for defensive war in Iran or it's supposed to be to try to get it to become a law. If it doesn't become law, then we need to work on it in the defense appropriation process.

Shoshana Abrams: Thank you. I'm hearing some feedback. Theresa, could you go ahead and mute the lines for me, please?

Automated: All guests have been muted. You can unmute your line by pressing star six.

Shoshana Abrams: All right, thank you. Congressman. Do you have time for one more question?

Shoshana Abrams: Congressman? You may have to-

Mark: Bellingham, Washington.

Shoshana Abrams: Hold that thought for me with your question.

Mark: [inaudible 00:23:09].

Shoshana Abrams: Hello. Could you please hold your questions.

Mark: Yes.

Shoshana Abrams: Khanna, are you on the line? You might have to-

Ro Khanna: Yes I am. I think they muted me.

Shoshana Abrams: Okay, I'm so sorry. Okay. We had a question from Bellingham, Washington. And this will be our last question.

Mark: Can you hear me now?

Shoshana Abrams: Yes, go ahead.

Mark: This is Mark from Bellingham, Washington. My question is, and I'm paraphrasing now, the president last night actually sent out a tweet that he was complying with the War Powers Act. How does that fit into the equation? Right now I'm wondering why there hasn't been any, at least transparent movement on the repeal of the 2001 authorization to use military force.

Ro Khanna: Well, the president provided notifications for the Congress based on the War Powers Act of the strike, but his notification lacks sufficient justification is claiming that it was an act of self defense. That is just not correct. This was not an act of self defense. This was a brutal assassination of a foreign leader of a nation. And even if you believe, as I do that Suleimani, has killed Americans and is a bad actor, that doesn't justify the president taking action to remove him. So now it's for the house to make it clear that we reject the President's rationalization on this. And we will do that this week or early next week by passing the War Powers Act in Congress making it clear that we do not agree with the president and his strike on Suleimani. And we will prevent any future offensive attacks that they will clearly be unconstitutional.

Shoshana Abrams: Okay, thank you. Congressman, thank you so much for being with us tonight. Are there any last thoughts to leave our network with before we let you go?

Ro Khanna: I really appreciate it. Look, it's a very tough time for our country for the world. We really are at the risk of accidental or intentional confrontations, creating another massive war. And we are frankly, very, very fortunate that no Americans were killed in this attack, partly because it would have been horrendous to lose any American life. But also that it would have led to an escalation of violence that may have been beyond anyone's control. We now have perhaps the last chance to prevent that kind of war and your advocacy to make sure Congress does absolutely everything in his power to prevent yet another Middle East war is going to be critical. And I just want to thank you for What you're doing.

Shoshana Abrams: Well, thank you so much. Thank you for your leadership on this. And we're here to help. So thank you. All right. So, we're going to move back to you Hassan. And I think maybe Hassan, it would be great if you could kind of go over the end of what you share, which is kind of the legislative pieces that are moving forward. And then we'll just open it up for questions, because I know many of you had questions that were left for the Congressman, and I want to make sure that we get to as many of them as possible. So have Hassan, could you walk us through the different legislative vehicles that are coming up?

Hassan El-Tayya: Sure. Thank you so much for that. And it's always great to hear representative Lamb Khanna speak about these issues. So tomorrow there's going to be a House vote on an Iran War Powers Resolution, Representative Kaine is going to introduce that. So, that's really important that we get over the hurdle on that one again, it's just ending US... preventing US involvement in a unauthorized war against Iran. Shortly after that we're not exactly sure on the timing, but maybe the following week, the Senate will pick up very similar bill Kaine's Iran War Powers Resolution, and that does have a number that S.J Res 63. And so, we'll have a House vote and then Senate vote on Iran war powers. I think it's important to know that Lee and Paul just announced their support. Republican senators from Utah and Kentucky, so that's wonderful. We need all Democrats to vote for it. And we need just four Republicans to get it across the finish line. It won't give us a veto proof majority, but it will give us a majority to at least get it on the president desk, which I think is really important.

Hassan El-Tayya: Shoshana, do you want me to go into a little bit about the swing list on that one, or should I go to the other vehicles next?

Shoshana Abrams: It'd be great to hear a little bit about representative Khanna's amendment next. And then we'll go to questions and maybe people will ask.

Hassan El-Tayya: Okay, absolutely. So, and Speaker Pelosi, she put out a press release today, saying that they're going to be, potentially, the vote on Iran more powers. But she said she also intended to bring representative Khanna's bill, which is virtually identical to the Khanna gates amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. And this is the no war... This new standalone bill is the no war against Iran act. And Khanna, he said there wasn't a bill number, there actually is a bill number. And I know there's so many pieces of legislation flying around so we can... but the bill number is HR 5543. And that would immediately prohibit all unauthorized funding for a war against Iran. And also make absolutely clear that neither the 2001 AUMF, or the 2002 AUMF, authorized use of military force against Iran. So those are the two main vehicles we're tracking right now.

Shoshana Abrams: Wonderful, thank you so much Hassan. You ready to take some questions?

Hassan El-Tayya: Absolutely.

Shoshana Abrams: Wonderful. Okay. So if you have questions lingering from the congressman or for Hassan, go ahead and press star six to unmute yourself and please re mute yourself by pressing star six again after you ask your question.

Karen: Hi, this is Karen from Madison.

Shoshana Abrams: Great. Go ahead, Karen.

- Karen: I have two questions. One is, are these resolutions binding? The more power resolutions that are being brought up in the House and the Senate? And the second question is representative Khanna said that the house has the power without the Senate to prohibit funding. Is that just by not passing funding legislation or is there some other mechanism?
- Hassan El-Tayya: Yeah, great questions. One, first off the War Powers Resolution, that's a joint resolution and that is binding. So, as far as the Khanna no unauthorized war funding, that is just a resolution so that's not binding. But if Senator Sanders gets a vote and is able to get support for a resolution on the Senate side, then yes. I'm sorry, actually sorry. Khanna's resolution is binding, and that's because it's a House Resolution. And as far as DOD, the house version, I'm sorry, let me collect my thoughts there. The funding piece that he's talking about through Department of Defense appropriations legislation that passes every year, the house has tremendous leverage in blocking funding for an unauthorized war with Iran. So just by virtue of them having some way in and being able to control the power of the purse, they can prevent funding for a war with Iran. So, this resolution that Khanna has sets the stage. So it starts in that house and it has to be passed in both chambers. So again, it gives them tremendous leverage.
- Shoshana Abrams: All right, thank you. Other questions? Go ahead and press star six.
- Bennet Rutledge: This is Bennet Rutledge.
- Shoshana Abrams: Go head.
- Bennet Rutledge: Yes I'm out in Colorado. I wanted to ask about HR 5492, handling the Select Service. One thing that occurs to me that could be very helpful is preventing the president from grabbing unlimited manpower. And the fact that women are now allowed in combat gets factored in. Limited woman power. That would be part of our agenda.
- Hassan El-Tayya: It sounds like a really interesting resolution. I haven't read the text myself. Something I can certainly, if you want to follow up after the call, we can have another conversation about that. It sounds super interesting, but I haven't read that particular resolution. So it's hard for me to make a comment at this time.
- Speaker 12: This is Terry from Lansing.
- Shoshana Abrams: I had someone in Lansing.
- Speaker 12: Yes, Terry in Lansing.
- Shoshana Abrams: Go ahead.

Speaker 12: We have, Alyssa Slotkin is our local representative and obviously she's in support of the bill. The resolution that she is bringing forward tomorrow. My question is, do we know where she stands on Khanna's Bill? And what might you suggest as our action if he's not in that position to try to convince her to support Khanna's bill?

Hassan El-Tayya: So far, Slotkin is not a co sponsor. Doesn't mean she won't support so I would definitely urge that you all ask her and go make an appointment to lobby her office. So yeah, I definitely think it's a great follow up, you can thank her for introducing the Iran War Powers Resolution and say, let's go one step further and prohibit unauthorized funding.

Shoshana Abrams: Great question. Other questions from the network, go ahead and press star six to unmute yourself.

Susan: This is Susan and-

Shoshana Abrams: I heard Susan, go ahead.

Susan: Yes, I'm I'm wondering at what point do we move to get co sponsors for Gillibrand bill so that she announced at our meeting in November?

Shoshana Abrams: That's a great question, perhaps, Jim can take that question.

Jim: Sure. I'm happy to take that question, Susan. Thank you. Right now the Gillibrand still... I'm sorry, this is Jim Caisson and I direct the strategic advocacy program at the Friends Committee on National Legislation. And I work with all these fine, folks. Just to say Susan that Gillibrand still is very important. And I know Hassan and the sales team are lobbying on it right now. We don't think that it should be the focus of this specific moment. Because as Hassan said, because of the work that all of you did last year, there is a lot more support than there was at the beginning of 2019 to really push back on this specific war with Iran.

Jim: And we have this opportunity to not just pass the War Powers Resolution in the House and in the Senate, although the senate will take a lot of work. But also then the follow up with the funding bill that Hassan and Representative Khanna indicated. And so we'd like to really put a push on those for the next two or three months to prevent what could really be a devastating war. We'll keep you updated on the Gillibrand bill if and when it starts to move, but this is the real opportunity right now. But I'm glad that you raised it and will certainly keep you posted.

Susan: Okay, thank you.

Hassan El-Tayya: Can I make one comment about the question of the last call, not the one about the Gillibrand bill, but about Slotkin?

Shoshana Abrams: Absolutely.

Hassan El-Tayya: So, one thing I should know is that Congresswoman Slotkin was actually a co sponsor of the Khanna gates Amendment, which obviously is identical to the Khanna standalone bill that would prohibit funding. So if you go into that meeting, you can basically say, thank you so much for supporting that NDAA amendment that Khanna introduced, the Khanna gates amendment. We'd love for you to be a co sponsor of this standalone bill. So I think that's, a great ask for her and I totally encourage you guys to go into that office as soon as you can.

Shoshana Abrams: Absolutely, thank you both for those. Other questions?

Speaker 16: Eugene-

Speaker 15: California-

Shoshana Abrams: I think I heard someone in California.

Speaker 15: Yeah. So my question is, obviously they're very big on funding for the war and any efforts to try to do funding. But my concern is that Trump has already shown a willingness to redirect funds illegally you know 74 empowerment Act and any other optimization whenever he wants for his all. And we saw for security funds for Ukraine, so is there going to be anything built into these bills to try to keep him from doing that?

Hassan El-Tayya: So, that's a really good question. I have probably not the most satisfying answer. Obviously, this is a difficult situation that we face with this. But I want to stress that one, it's really important that Congress make these votes and continue to reassert its constitutional war authority in the power of the purse. Khanna's bill is a strict prohibition on any funding for an unauthorized war with Iran. It's going to be very difficult for the President to wiggle out of, if he tries to do that. So that's one. But it's also just important that Congress, make these votes and try to de escalate the situation with Iran. So that Trump feels he doesn't have support of the Congress or the American people to continue pushing forward for a war. And that it also signals to the Iranians that the American people in Congress also don't want a war. So, I think it's also important to win the court of public opinion here.

Shoshana Abrams: Great, thank you. We have time for one or two more questions.

John: This is John, can I speak up? I'm calling from Cambridge Mass?

Shoshana Abrams: Go ahead.

John: Yeah. So, Hassan, you're going to tell us about the swings on the War Powers Resolution. Would you tell us more details?

Hassan El-Tayya: Yeah, absolutely. I think shout out to Massachusetts. I was just in Massachusetts over the Christmas break. I grew up there in Plumit, so I love being there. And I spent a little time at the Cambridge Friends Meeting which is a real treat. So the swing list right now is Jones from Louisiana. This is all in the senate side by the way, Jones from the Louisiana, Mansion from West Virginia, Romney from Utah, Cinema from Arizona. Rosen from Nevada, Portman from Ohio. Collins from Maine, Moran from Kansas, and Young from Indiana. I can maybe just say that one more time without the states. So the swing list is Jones, Mansion, Romney, Cinema, Rosen, Portman, Collins, Moran and Young. So, if you live in any of those states reaching out to those members right now is absolutely critical. And, you can definitely thank them for their leadership, you can mention that, we've already got Republicans, Rand Paul and Mike Lee on board as well.

Hassan El-Tayya: So nobody wants to be the only republican on the bill. So I think mentioning that would be really good. But again, they just need to hear from their constituents right now more than ever, that you want them to reassert their constitutional war authority. You want to push for diplomacy, not war with Iran, and you want most of all to de escalate the situation. And you feel that these boats would go a long way and doing just that.

Shoshana Abrams: Hassan, will you tell us just for a moment, there are people who are more or less familiar with all of the terminology, will you tell us what a swing list is, and this is again for the War Powers Resolution, right?

Hassan El-Tayya: Yeah, it's the Iran War Powers Resolution introduced by Kaine. Yeah, sure, that's a great question. What is this swing list? Well, there are a bunch of folks that we think are sure, we're sure that they're going to vote yes on this when it comes to the floor. And it will come to the floor, because inside the War Powers Act it gives us the ability to force votes and bring stuff to the floor. Even if McConnell doesn't want it. But the swing list, they are folks that we're not quite sure if they're going to vote yes or if they're going to vote no.

Hassan El-Tayya: Now, we think that some of these folks ended up on the swing list because they've taken other votes that were, in favor. So, there was a vote on the NDAA over the summer on the Senate side around Iran. And several of these folks voted yes, but so far, they haven't come out either way on the new Iran War Powers Resolution. So they just need a little extra push from their constituents, just to make sure. And that's where you all can play a huge role in helping us get this passed.

Shoshana Abrams: Wonderful. And I'll just note that you should only call your own senators. So if you don't happen to have one of these senators, it's still really important that you contact your senators. And you can even ask your senators if they're planning on supporting to reach out to one of these senators. That's a good way to do it, but still only contacts your own senators. Every state is still very important. And have time for just one more question. You can press-

Sarah: Sarah from [crosstalk 00:44:42].

Shoshana Abrams: I hear a Sarah.

Sarah: Yes. I've heard about a national event tomorrow Thursday, January 9 at five o'clock local time. No war with Iran. Is that something that is consistent with FCNL? Are you supporting that on a national basis? Or should we just go out as individual? Okay, if I hold my war is not the answer sign.

Hassan El-Tayya: I mean, Jim maybe you can go ahead or so Shoshana.

Shoshana Abrams: Yeah, I can take this one. So I want to thank you all for being on this call tonight. You may have gotten many emails from win without war or move on. They had a call tonight from the exact same time. We are very supportive of the events that are happening tomorrow. And rallies and vigils, all of those things are really important to show the galvanized support for no war with Iran, bring your FCNL signs. You could even go as a team if you're able to organize that quickly. Consider telling people about your advocacy team efforts while you're there. We're not often working on something that is so critically in the news and it is a blessing and a curse. But we want to use this moment to bring support and raise the profile of this issue. So absolutely be a part of that. And then bring that energy into congressional offices in the way that you all know how. So I really hope that all of you are able to take part in that.

Shoshana Abrams: All right, so I'm a little off with a time because we had to switch back and forth but I'd love to hear our story from the Lancaster team. Tom, are you on the line?

Tom: Hello, can you hear me?

Shoshana Abrams: Tom?

Tom: Yep. Can you hear me?

Shoshana Abrams: Yes, we can hear you. Go ahead. Thank you.

Tom: Yeah, I'm Tom from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. And on Monday, our local newspaper The LNP, which stands for Lancaster newspapers published an editorial entitled, 'Congress needs to do its job and take back its power to authorize war.' This simply traces the history of the 2001 and 2002 AUMF and then comes directly to the point. Quote, these two authorizations remain in effect. Not everyone is okay with that. We're not okay with that, unquote. The editorial concludes with an exhortation to our congressional delegation. Quote, we'd like to think that our representatives in Congress, including Pat Toomey, who's part of the Republican Senate Majority and Representative Lloyd Smucker understand the job laid out for them by the founders, they should do that job. Unquote.

Tom: Throughout 2019, our advocacy team published over half a dozen letters in the LNP pertaining AUMF repeal. Yet we receive no responses, no rebuttals, no inquiries or feedback from LNP staff. We asked for a meeting with the papers editorial board but got no response. It felt like our words were falling into a void yet here, voila, was this editorial siding and supporting our arguments for AUMF repeal. In fact, the editorial quoted three letters from our team as evidence that quote, our letter writers seem to have anticipated this moment, unquote. That is President Trump unilateral attack on Iran. This editorial is a big deal for us Lancastrian. As the county's only daily newspaper, it is read and argued over by everyone, right, left and center.

Tom: The LNP tries very hard to Project balance and even handedness to the voice any views that appear extreme in any way. This editorial present AUMF repeal as logical, as pure common sense and patriotic, as in supporting the constitution. Will it convince representative Smucker and Senator Toomey? Unlikely, but openly challenges them and their constituents to do something about the erosion of Congress's constitutional authority over use of military force. This editorial changes the discourse on war making here in Lancaster. The moral the story for advocacy team is to stay faithful, persistent to our mission and expect that what needs to be said, will be heard.

Shoshana Abrams: Thank you so much Tom. And this is fantastic. I have to tell you all that I got word of this from their team. And they asked the local newspapers behind a firewall or paywall and they said, "No, no, I have an account, you all get published so often that I have an account." But this effort, the 17 letters to the editor that you got published last year really made an impact. So congratulations on getting this article. And I'll send this article out in the follow up so that all the teams around the country can see. And I want to take a moment. I know I skipped right over this. But I really want to thank Hassan for giving us the update tonight. He will be with our teams as we move throughout the year to answer your questions, so he'll be available to you for that. He also has a wonderful program assistant Karessa who will be able to answer your questions. So, I'm really looking forward to all we have in that.

Shoshana Abrams: I thought that I would just kind of go back over one more time, the amount of success that we had last year. So in 2019, you all did 368 lobby visits, you published 164 Media pieces. You did 34 outreach events. And all of that work made a huge difference. If you've listened in the past few days, after all of this kind of scary talk coming from our government. And you've also heard members of Congress, giving our lines speaking our truth out in the public. In tweets, in legislation that's pouring in. All of them are kind of influenced by the language that you all spoke to their offices throughout all of last year. Nancy Pelosi sent out I think to the public about the War Powers Resolution. And she wrote this, and I kind of want to read it to you, I think it's really important so you can see the work that we've done, and how it all comes together.

Shoshana Abrams: So, she talks about the War Powers Resolution and how it's coming for a vote tomorrow and how spot team is bringing this. And then she says the house may also soon consider additional legislation on the floor to keep America safe. This legislation includes congressman Barbara Lee's resolution to appeal the 2002 Iraq AUMF Authorization for Use of Military Force. And I think you all know the number for that. That is HR 2354. And there's also been a lot of talk about HR 1274, which is to repeal the 2001 AUMF. And she also says in congressman Ro Khanna's legislation to prohibit funding for the military action against the Iran that was not authorized by Congress. And so time and time again, we're seeing members of Congress citing all of this work that we've put in. So I don't want you to think two steps forward, three steps back, we are really making progress at that steady beat. And I think that's really important.

Shoshana Abrams: So, the first thing to do tomorrow is to call your members of Congress this August and ask them to support the War Powers Resolution, that's in the house. And then after that, you're going to ask senators to support War Powers Resolution, and that's 63, Senate joint resolution 63. And we'll send this all out in the follow up. And then we're going to be building co sponsorship for... sorry for congressman Ro Khanna's bill to prohibit funding. So, all of that will be coming up in the next month, and I will send you a full follow up email after this. The next national call is on February 5th, and our January communicator calls are on the 16th and the 30th. And we're arranging some really wonderful content for that. So I hope that you all can join us for those.

Shoshana Abrams: I want to thank you all for joining the call tonight. And for your action so far this year, there's been letters to the editor published, I saw a video of our Providence, Rhode Island team speaking at a rally about Iran. And so thank you all for your actions so far. And thank you for your actions in the coming weeks, months and year. As I said earlier, the call that was happening tonight was win without war is about organizing a day of action tomorrow and I hope that you're able to participate. I believe the link to find out information about that is [nowarwithiran.org](http://nowarwithiran.org). So take part in that. And I hope you all are able to do that. And I hope you're able to have many conversations with your members of Congress in the coming weeks. And know that we are here to help you along the way.

Shoshana Abrams: We have a lot of work to do, as you heard many times tonight, we are up against it. But I have to say we have the best community to do it. We have the best systems and structures in methodology to do it. And I am just so honored every time I get to be with you all. And so I wish you all a wonderful evening. And a great movement towards peace. So no war with Iran. And good luck and good night.

Tom: Good night, everybody.

Hassan El-Tayya: Good night.

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Bennet Rutledge: So this is Bennet Rutledge, I'm hanging on. You wouldn't want to talk about modeling to select-