

Issue Public Statements Against War with Iran

The United States and Iran are moving closer to war every day. Iran's provocative naval maneuvers and the U.S. response could easily lead to an accidental military confrontation. These dangerous conditions have been exacerbated by the administration's halt to diplomacy with Iran, the assassination of a top Iranian official, and the president's veto of the bipartisan Iran War Powers Resolution.

Article I of the Constitution states that only Congress has the power to declare war. Congress has not authorized military action against Iran. We urge members of Congress to keep up the drumbeat against war with Iran in the second half of 2020.

The FY2021 Defense Appropriations Act, passed by the House in late July, includes clear language that no president is authorized to launch a preemptive war against Iran without congressional approval. The legislation would also repeal the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF), which has been used to justify military action against Iran. The president would retain his ability to use military force to repel sudden attacks against the United States, even without congressional authorization.

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 the U.S. military to lethal action and should regularly evaluate and vote on whether to continue ongoing U.S. wars.

The specific provisions in the House Defense Appropriations Act for FY 2021 are as follows:

- » **No money for war with Iran:** Prohibits any of the funds appropriated by this Act to be used for any military force in or against Iran unless Congress has (A) declared war, or (B) enacted specific statutory authorization.
- » **Maintains Article 2 provisions:** Provides an exception for the president to use military force to repel sudden attacks as long as that action is consistent with the War Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1541)
- » **Repeals the 2002 Iraq AUMF:** Repeals the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note).

Publicly Support Defense Appropriations Language to Prevent War with Iran

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