Prevent War with North Korea

Diplomacy with North Korea has produced the first specific, if limited, results—but the progress is fragile and slow. Harsh statements or miscalculations could lead to a devastating military conflict. We urge members of Congress to publicly support sustained, flexible, problem-solving engagement with North Korea that incrementally builds on smaller steps toward larger nonproliferation, security, and humanitarian breakthroughs.

War with North Korea would inflict disastrous human, economic, and diplomatic costs on the people of the United States, South Korea, and Japan. Sanctions alone cannot be relied on to halt, much less roll back, North Korea’s nuclear, missile, and other advances.

We urge members of Congress to oversee and check the power to choose war over diplomacy by cosponsoring S. 2047, the Preventing Preemptive War in North Korea Act of 2017, or H.R. 4837, the No Unconstitutional Strike on North Korea Act, which use Congress’ power of the purse to permit military force only after congressional approval or in response to an attack.

- **Sustain diplomacy:** Congress must urge the administration to stay with engagement with North Korea and flexibly but persistently pursue incremental progress.

- **War is not an option:** Sanctions alone and threats of war have failed to curtail North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs, and could lead to catastrophic miscalculations.

- **Congress must lead:** Congress needs to reassert its constitutional authority to decide when the United States launches a preventive war.

We urge members of Congress to support sustained diplomacy and cosponsor S. 2047 or H.R. 4837.