



Legislative Priorities in Foreign Policy: 116th Congress

The Friends Committee on National Legislation believes that the following legislative measures are necessary and urgent in our mission to create a world free of war and the threat of war.

MIDDLE EAST & IRAN

H.J.Res. 37/S.J.Res. 7

To direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

Sponsors: Reps. Ro Khanna, Thomas Massie; Sens. Bernie Sanders, Mike Lee, Chris Murphy

Summary: Invokes the War Powers Resolution to end U.S. military participation in the Saudi-led war in Yemen, which has never been authorized by Congress.

Status: S.J.Res. 7 passed by the Senate 3/13/19, passed by the House 4/4/19, vetoed by the President 4/16/19. Senate failed to override the veto 5/2/19.

H.R. 2354/S. 1039

Prevention of Unconstitutional War with Iran Act

Sponsor: Reps. Anna Eshoo, Mike Thompson; Sen. Tom Udall

Summary: Bans funding for a U.S. military attack against Iran without authorization from Congress.

Status: Introduced in the Senate 4/4/19; introduced in the House 4/25/19

H.R. 2407

Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act

Sponsor: Rep. Betty McCollum

Summary: Prevents U.S. tax dollars from funding military detention, interrogation, abuse, or ill-treatment of Palestinian children.

Status: Introduced 4/30/19

S.Res. 171

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding restoring United States bilateral assistance to the West Bank and Gaza

Sponsor: Sen. Jeff Merkley

Summary: Expresses the sense of the Senate that the Executive branch should expend the funds that Congress appropriated for food, essential health services, and other humanitarian goods and services for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza.

Status: Introduced 4/11/19

MILITARISM & HUMAN RIGHTS

H.R. 1004

Prohibiting Unauthorized Military Action in Venezuela Act

Sponsor: Rep. David Cicilline

Summary: Prohibits federal funds from being used to introduce U.S. Armed Forces into hostilities with Venezuela without specific authorization or a national emergency created by attack upon the United States or the Armed Forces.

Status: Ordered reported by House Foreign Affairs Committee 4/9/19

H.R. 1274

Repeal of the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force

Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Summary: Repeals, after 240 days, the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force, which has been used by three presidents to justify an ever-expanding number of U.S. military interventions around the world without congressional approval.

Status: Introduced 2/14/19

S.J.Res. 11

Prohibiting Unauthorized Military Action in Venezuela Resolution of 2019

Sponsors: Sens. Jeff Merkley, Bernie Sanders, Chris Coons

Summary: Prohibits federal funds from being used to introduce armed forces into hostilities with Venezuela, except pursuant to a specific statutory authorization by Congress.

Status: Introduced 2/28/19

S.J.Res. 12

AFGHAN Service Act

Sponsors: Sens. Rand Paul and Tom Udall

Summary: Requires the withdrawal of all U.S. Armed Forces from Afghanistan and repeals the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force after 395 days.

Status: Introduced 3/4/19

S.J.Res. 13

Repeal the 1991 and 2002 authorizations for use of military force against Iraq

Sponsors: Sens. Tim Kaine, Todd Young, Mike Lee

Summary: Immediately repeals the AUMF Against Iraq Resolution of 1991 and the AUMF Against Iraq Resolution of 2002.

Status: Introduced 3/6/19

H.R. 2456

Repeal of the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force against Iraq

Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Summary: Immediately repeals the AUMF Against Iraq Resolution of 2002.

Status: Introduced 5/1/19

NUCLEAR WEAPONS & PENTAGON SPENDING

H.R. 669/S. 200

Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2019

Sponsors: Rep. Ted Lieu, Sen. Ed Markey

Summary: Prohibits the United States from using nuclear weapons first unless Congress explicitly authorizes such an attack.

Status: Introduced in the House 1/17/19, introduced in the Senate 1/24/19

H.R. 921/S. 272

To establish the policy of the United States regarding the no-first-use of nuclear weapons

Sponsors: Rep. Adam Smith, Sen. Elizabeth Warren

Summary: Makes it official policy that the United States will never use nuclear weapons first.

Status: Introduced in the Senate 1/30/19, introduced in the House 3/14/19

H.R. 1086/S. 401

Hold the LYNE Act

Sponsors: Rep. Ted Lieu, Sen. Ed Markey

Summary: Bars funding for researching, developing, producing, or deploying a new, so-called “low yield” nuclear warhead for Trident II submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

Status: Introduced in the Senate 2/7/19, introduced in the House 2/8/19

H.Res. 152

Calling for a formal end of the Korean war

Sponsor: Rep. Ro Khanna

Summary: Calls for declaring an end to the state of war with North Korea and for serious, urgent diplomacy in pursuit of a binding peace agreement with North Korea.

Status: Introduced 2/26/19

S. 845

New START Policy Act of 2019

Sponsor: Sen. Robert Menendez

Summary: Sets as U.S. policy that the New START Treaty should be extended until 2026 unless Russia is not complying, and requires the Secretary of Defense and Director of National Intelligence to report to Congress on the downsides of not extending New START.

Status: Introduced 3/14/19

S. 1285

Save Arms control and Verification Efforts (SAVE) Act

Sponsor: Sen. Ed Markey

Summary: Prohibits the expansion of the U.S. strategic nuclear arsenal past New START limits in the event that New START is not extended, and requires a National Intelligence Estimate and other reports detailing the harm that would be caused by the expiration of New START.

Status: Introduced 5/02/19

H.R. 2529

Richard C. Lugar and Ellen O. Tauscher Act to Maintain Limits on Russian Nuclear Forces

Sponsors: Rep. Eliot Engel, Rep. Michael McCaul

Summary: Expresses the sense of Congress that the New START Treaty should be extended until 2026 unless Russia is not complying, and requires the Director of National Intelligence and Secretary of State to report to Congress on downsides of not extending New START.

Status: Introduced 5/07/19

PEACEBUILDING & CONFLICT PREVENTION

H.R. 2116/S. 727

Global Fragility Act

Sponsors: Reps. Eliot Engel, Michael McCaul; Sens. Chris Coons, Lindsey Graham

Summary: Mandates the development of a long-term, government-wide strategy to address fragility and violence in priority countries.

Status: Ordered reported by House Foreign Affairs Committee 4/9/19; introduced in Senate 3/7/19