

January 2021

Dear Friends,

“He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” - *Isaiah 2:4*

This verse from Isaiah conjures a vision of ‘many peoples’ transforming their weapons into farming tools; nations turning away from war and towards peaceful coexistence. It’s a powerful image as we recommit to ending endless wars in 2021 and work to finally repeal the 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for the Use of Military Force (AUMFs).

For nearly 20 years, U.S. presidents have used these laws far beyond the scope intended by Congress to justify more than 40 military operations in 19 countries, bypassing the congressional approval required by the Constitution. It’s past time for members of Congress to stop granting presidents a blank check for war and reassert congressional war authority by repealing the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs.

As a Quaker organization, FCNL seeks a world free of war and the threat of war. This is an uphill struggle, but we firmly believe peace is possible to peace. After nearly two decades of advocacy, we have made progress. Our community’s work around the country, paired with powerful lobbying on Capitol Hill, helped convince the House to adopt legislation to repeal both these authorizations in the past two years.

Now is the perfect time to build on this momentum, to share our peace testimony, and strive toward the peaceful world we seek. A new Congress was just sworn in and President-elect Joe Biden is more sympathetic to our goal of ending endless war. For several years, we’ve built bipartisan support to rein in presidential war-making power. As we begin 2021, *join FCNL advocates and Advocacy Team members in calling on Congress to support repeal of the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs.*

Please act using the accompanying letter template, call script, and this [email template](#). Please add 2-4 sentences letting your member know why you are personally concerned. Then, call the U.S. Congress at 202-224-3121 to be connected to your representative’s and senators’ offices. Leave a message if they do not pick up or if you are calling after office hours.

Your letters, emails, and phone calls to Congress matter now more than ever. This month and until the pandemic disruptions are resolved, we will send Letter Writing prompts only by email. Although not gathered in person, we ask Friends to continue sending letters and emails and calling elected officials using the materials we provide. Please consider sharing this call to action with your community email lists and organizing virtual gatherings for collective advocacy. Learn more and get training from FCNL staff at fcnl.org/lobbyfromhome.

Ever faithfully onwards,

Bobby Trice
Quaker Engagement Associate
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Call Script

Hello, I am calling for **Representative/Senator** _____. I am a resident in **[city, state]** in district **[number]**. I am deeply concerned by U.S. involvement in endless wars and how the Authorizations for the Use of Military Force provide the president with a blank check to wage war. I urge you to support repeal of the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs without delay.

(My story)

October 2021 will mark 20 years of war justified by these AUMFs. This legislation authorized the invasion of Afghanistan and has been interpreted by three, soon to be four, different administrations to authorize over 40 military actions in 19 different countries. I believe that repealing the AUMFs is a way toward a more peaceful approach to foreign policy. Thank you.

Letter/Email Template

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Dear _____

I am deeply concerned by U.S. involvement in endless wars and how the Authorizations for the Use of Military Force provide the president with a blank check to wage war. I urge you to support repeal of the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs without delay.

(My story)

October 2021 will mark 20 years of war justified by the 2001 AUMF and 2002 Iraq AUMF. These pieces of legislation have been used by three different administrations to authorize over 40 military actions in 19 countries without additional congressional approval. This rampant war-making is an affront to my belief in peace and the Quaker vision of a world free from war and the threat of war. 2021 is the year to end endless wars once and for all.

Sincerely,

(Name, Physical Address, Phone, Email)