

Support Repeal of the 2002 Iraq AUMF

The 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq (2002 Iraq AUMF) authorized war against Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime. It is unnecessary for ongoing military operations but is susceptible to abuse by the executive branch. Repealing the 2002 Iraq AUMF is a first step toward Congress reasserting its constitutional authority over when the United States goes to war. There is *strong bipartisan support* for this effort, including a *bipartisan bill* that Sens. Tim Kaine (VA) and Todd Young (IN) introduced on March 3, 2021.

Article II of the Constitution gives the president the authority to use military force without congressional approval to defend the United States against a sudden or imminent attack. But under Article I of the Constitution, Congress has the sole authority to authorize a prolonged war. 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 our military to lethal action and should regularly evaluate and vote on whether to continue ongoing U.S. wars.

Please co-sponsor S.J. Res.10, from Sens. Tim Kaine and Todd Young, to repeal the 2002 Iraq AUMF.

The 2002 Iraq AUMF should be repealed because:

- » **It's open to further abuse.** In January 2020, the 2002 Iraq AUMF was misused to justify the assassination of Iranian general Qassem Soleimani. Congress should prevent any further abuse of this outdated law.
- » **It is not needed for existing operations.** Even without the 2002 Iraq AUMF, the president has authority to defend the United States against attack. Existing operations would not be affected by its repeal because the executive branch relies on a different authority, the 2001 AUMF, as the legal basis for all current military operations.
- » **It is no longer relevant.** The Saddam Hussein regime was overthrown in 2003 and a formal end to the U.S. mission in Iraq was declared at the end of 2011.
- » **To fulfill Congress's constitutional responsibility.** It is Congress's role to not only authorize but to limit the president's power to use force. Repealing the 2002 Iraq AUMF would reassert Congress's Article I constitutional duty to determine when the United States goes to war.

**Co-sponsor S.J.
Res. 10 to repeal
the 1991 and 2002
Iraq AUMFs.**

Contact:

Heather Brandon-Smith

Legislative Director for
Militarism

HBrandon-Smith@fcnl.org

[Read more about the 2002 Iraq AUMF here.](#)