

Minute for the repeal of the 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) and for building peace in the world.

As Quakers we seek a world free of war and the threat of war. We have a long history striving for peace. The founders of the United States specifically placed the power to declare war in the hands of Congress. An important step at this moment is to insist that Congress reassert its Constitutional authority in Article 1: determining when and if our country goes to war. Repealing the 2002 Iraq AUMF that authorized the 2003 invasion of Iraq is a critical first step. Even though military activity has ended in Iraq as of 2011, this authorization tool is a blank check available for abuse by the executive branch.

We are letting our members of Congress know that we are glad that they support the repeal of the 2002 Iraq AUMF. Senators Wyden and Merkley have cosponsored Senate Joint Resolution 10. Representatives Schrader, Bonamici, and Blumenauer have voted in favor of the corresponding House Bill 256 which passed the house with large bipartisan support. In addition, President Biden has also expressed his willingness to sign this repeal into law.

The tragic events in Afghanistan demonstrate that 20 years of troops and military equipment and action has not led to a stable government or stable political situation in that country. The second critical step is to repeal the 2001 AUMF that authorized the military action in Afghanistan.

Then, to make to make world a safer place our members of Congress need to:

- invest in peace building, diplomacy, and other measures to prevent violent conflict and work in concert with our allies,
- ensure that our international actions are congruent with our American values,
- learn lessons from our actions and reflect on what it means to truly protect American security.
- engage in robust debate prior to authorizing any military action; use military force only as a last resort, clearly specifying the objectives, geography and duration of the action.

In The Light of Peace, Justice and Love

Bridge City Friends Meeting
Religious Society of Friends
Portland, Oregon