



January 27, 2020

Letter of support for Barbara Lee Amendment to H.R. 550

Dear Members of Congress,

On behalf of Concerned Veterans for America and the thousands of veterans and military families around the country we represent, we would like to offer our strong support for the amendment brought by Representative Barbara Lee to H.R. 550, which would repeal the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force.

Originally drafted to authorize operations against the Iraqi government, the 2002 AUMF has long since been rendered obsolete. The United States now partners with Iraq, and it no longer makes sense to have an active force authorization in place against the country. What's more, the United States does not rely on the 2002 AUMF to authorize any ongoing military operation, which Acting State Department Legal Advisor Marik String confirmed before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as recently as July. Repealing the 2002 AUMF would not affect any ongoing U.S. deployment.

Beyond there being no foreign policy reason to keep the 2002 AUMF active, repeal would preserve the proper separation of powers between Congress and the executive branch, no matter who is in office. Leaving the 2002 AUMF in place would keep the door open for future Administrations to use it as an authority to take the United States to war without first obtaining Congressional authorization as the Constitution demands.

On behalf of the thousands of veterans and military families Concerned Veterans for America represents, we urge Congress to assert its rightful role in decisions about war and peace by repealing the outdated 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force.

Sincerely,

Nate Anderson
Executive Director
Concerned Veterans for America