



February 6, 2020

Letter of support for Senate Joint Resolution 68

Dear Members of the U.S. Senate,

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 S. J. Res. 68, offered by Senator Tim Kaine to prohibit war with Iran without congressional authorization.

One of Congress' most important constitutional powers is to authorize the use of military force and to declare war. In recent years, the Legislative Branch has too often abdicated this solemn responsibility and left American foreign policy almost entirely in the hands of the Executive Branch. We urge Congress to reassert its Article I role to ensure that our country only wages war that has been formally authorized after a full public debate.

After recent events, the threat of war with Iran is higher than it has ever been during this administration. Although Iran is a bad actor in the Middle East, it is not in our national interest to entangle our troops in another endless war in the region when there are more important strategic priorities at stake, something the majority of the American public recognizes.¹

Neither the 2001 nor 2002 Authorizations for the Use of Military Force provide sufficient basis for a conflict with Iran. Given that Iranian proxies are actively engaged in conflict with Al Qaeda, which was targeted by the 2001 AUMF, and were opposed to the Iraqi regime that the 2002 AUMF was directed against, it is clear that neither authorization encompasses hostilities against Iran.

Those that support further military action against Iran owe it to our troops and to the American people to first secure proper authorization to do so, rather than committing the United States to that course absent a robust public debate.

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 and avoid entanglement in new conflicts when vital national interests aren't at stake- including with Iran.

Sincerely,

Dan Caldwell
Senior Advisor
Concerned Veterans for America

¹ "New Joint Poll from Concerned Veterans for America and VoteVets Finds Strong Opposition to War with Iran," June 6, 2019. <https://cv4a.org/press-release/new-joint-poll-from-concerned-veterans-for-america-and-votevets-finds-strong-opposition-to-war-with-iran/>