



# CONCERNED VETERANS FOR AMERICA<sup>SM</sup>

July 23, 2026

Dear Senators,

On behalf of Concerned Veterans for America (CVA) and our thousands of activists around the country, we urge you to support the following policy priorities as the Senate approaches floor consideration of amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2027.

Congress should focus limited U.S. defense resources on protecting core American interests, holding contractors to enforceable readiness and data-sharing commitments, and safeguard sensitive national security systems from unnecessary foreign access. Congress should also remain involved in questions of war and peace while simultaneously preserving the President's ability to adjust force posture in response to changing strategic conditions. Finally, Congress should accelerate domestic energy independence, protect Americans' constitutional privacy rights, and repeal outdated sanctions.

Following eventual Senate passage, we also urge future conferees to retain Sec. 804, protecting the readiness of our troops by improving their ability to repair their equipment. We also support the retention of Sec. 1227, which requires recurring reports on our NATO allies' readiness, capabilities, and progress toward 3.5% of GDP defense spending. Additionally, we urge conferees to retain Sec. 1002, creating accountability incentives to encourage progress toward a clean Pentagon audit.

Finally, we call on future conferees to strike Secs. 1222 and 1235, which limit the President's ability to redeploy troops in response to changing strategic conditions.

## CVA's Key NDAA Amendment Priorities:

### War Powers Reform:

**YES** – [Kaine 6094](#), [6276](#), [6277](#), [6278](#) Strengthens War Powers Resolution by defining “hostilities,” reducing the allowable time period for unauthorized hostilities, and requiring Executive Branch transparency on legal reasoning behind strikes.

**CVA Position:** As currently written, the War Powers Resolution is difficult for Congress to enforce in practice. These changes will support Congress' ability to defend its Constitutional role of deciding when the United States goes to war.

### Preserving the President's Redeployment Authority

**NO** – [Hickenlooper 5991](#) / [Shaheen 6501](#) Limits Availability of Funds for Modification or Consolidation of Geographic Combatant Commands /for Withdrawal of US Armed Forces from Eastern Europe.

**CVA Position:** U.S. combatant commands and troop deployments should reflect the relative importance of the American interests they protect. Our wealthy NATO allies are capable of shouldering a greater portion of their regional defense burden so that the United States can concentrate on greater threats elsewhere. Congress should use Article I, Section 8 powers to scrutinize deployment choices, not to force the President to maintain suboptimal force posture.

### Right to Repair Enforceability

**YES** – [Sheehy 6625](#) Allows the federal government to sue a defense contractor in federal court if it fails to deliver technical data, software, or documentation within 30 days of a contracting officer's decision requiring it. Preserves the contractors' right to appeal but does not allow a pending appeal to stall data delivery for months or years while the claim is being adjudicated.

**CVA Position:** Congress needs to ensure that its will regarding contractor data-sharing with the Services is upheld in order to support streamlined maintenance and repair efforts. SA 6625 ensures that "Right-to-Repair"-style provisions, such as those added in Sec. 804 of the FY 27 Senate NDAA, can be practically enforced on a timeline meaningful to our servicemembers.

### Additional CVA NDAA Amendment Priorities:

#### Iran War Powers Resolution

**YES** – [Kaine 6093](#) Prohibits use of funds to conduct operations against Iran without Congressional authorization for five years, exempting defending attacks and intelligence-sharing.

**CVA Position:** Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution clearly states that Congress alone is the branch of government that decides when to send Americans to war. The economic and readiness costs of the Iran War are too significant for it to become an open-ended conflict. SA 6093 would rightly require operations against Iran to either be authorized or brought to an end.

#### Collective Bargaining in National Security:

**NO** – [Van Hollen 6076](#) / [Warner 6187](#) / [Schumer 6342](#) Prohibits use of funds carry out Executive Order 14251 on collective bargaining exclusions for national security-related positions.

**CVA Position:** Working to advance American national security is a privilege and duty. Collective bargaining has no place at federal agencies entrusted with this mission. These amendments would undermine President Trump's Executive Order rightly excluding federal agencies involved in national security from collective bargaining agreements.

#### Safeguarding National Security Information and Data:

**YES** – [Van Hollen 6140](#) Strikes Section 1217 "The United States-Israel Framework for Upgraded Technologies, Unified Research, and Enhanced Security (FUTURES) Act of 2026."

**CVA – Position:** The United States has substantial pre-existing security cooperation frameworks with Israel. Further integrating U.S. and Israeli national security data networks, as Sec. 1217 requires, is inappropriate. Just last month, the Defense Intelligence Agency [raised](#) its counterintelligence threat assessment of Israel from "High" to "Critical" after it was revealed that Israel has spied on senior U.S. national security officials. As a matter of principle, America should not facilitate network access to any country with a history of spying on it.

#### U.S. Middle Eastern Base Vulnerability:

**YES** – [Schatz 6659](#) Report within one year on damage to U.S. bases in the Persian Gulf, including cost estimates and future hardening needs.

**CVA Position:** Congress cannot conduct basic oversight of the war with Iran or make informed decisions about defense resourcing needs if it is not aware of the costs of current policy to U.S. regional basing infrastructure. Recent American casualties on and damage to U.S. bases in the region makes this transparency to the American people the more vital.

#### Transparency in Federal Agency Guidance:

**YES** – [Johnson 6632](#) Guidance Out of Darkness (GOOD) Act. Requires federal agencies to publish their regulatory guidance online.

**CVA Position:** CVA has endorsed this reform at the state level as a best practice and supports its federal implementation as well. The Department of Veterans Affairs' own track record demonstrates the need for the GOOD Act. Years of contradictory VA internal guidance which improperly denied veterans community care were only revealed through lengthy Freedom of Information Act litigation. FOIA suits should not be required for Congress to know whether agencies are carrying out its will.

### Repeal Outdated Sanctions

**YES** – [Shaheen 6508](#) Repeals the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 and the Syria Human Rights Accountability Act of 2012.

**CVA Position:** Congress imposed these statutes to pressure the now defunct Assad regime. Maintaining sanctions architecture designed for a government that no longer exists serves no strategic purpose and burdens Syria's recovery efforts.

### Oppose Expansion Ukraine Funding Architecture

**NO** – [Whitehouse 6356](#) Allows the President to unilaterally transfer frozen Russian sovereign assets into the Ukraine Support Fund without confiscation and mandates their disbursement on a set recurring schedule

**CVA Position:** This mechanism for moving frozen Russian assets into U.S.-administered funds sets a dangerous precedent for how foreign assets are handled and further locks the United States into an open-ended conflict that it should be reducing its involvement in. Congress should reject this amendment and push allies to take full ownership of Ukraine's defense.

### Block Warrantless Surveillance on American Soil

**YES** – [Durbin 6160](#) Requires a warrant before intelligence agencies can access the communications of Americans or those located in the United States that was incidentally collected under a foreign intelligence surveillance program.

**CVA Position:** Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act was designed to target credible foreign intelligence threats, not to give agencies a workaround for accessing private communications without a warrant. The Fourth Amendment's protections do not evaporate simply because the government already possesses the data. SA 6160 restores meaningful judicial oversight while preserving genuine emergency and national security exceptions.

### Accelerate America's Energy Security

**YES** – [Lee 6548](#) Creates the Nuclear Energy Launch Pad program to allow private companies to test next-generation nuclear reactors on federal land, fast-tracking American innovation and strengthening U.S. energy independence.

**CVA Position:** Military readiness and economic resilience depend on stable energy systems. The best way to achieve energy security is through an all-of-the-above approach. Congress should help unleash America's energy abundance by supporting efforts to expand America's nuclear infrastructure and reduce energy dependence on foreign suppliers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Byrnes", followed by a horizontal line.

John Byrnes | Strategic Director | Concerned Veterans for America