

Dec 9, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leaders McConnell and McCarthy:

We write to urge you to repeal the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq (2002 Iraq AUMF) as soon as possible.

Bipartisan majorities in both chambers of Congress as well as the administration have made clear their support for repealing this outdated AUMF. In June, after the White House issued a [Statement of Administration Policy](#) supporting Rep. Barbara Lee's (D-CA) bill to repeal the 2002 Iraq AUMF (H.R. 256), the House [passed it](#) by an overwhelming vote of 268-161, including 49 Republicans. Soon after, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee [advanced](#) bipartisan legislation from Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Todd Young (R-IN) to repeal the law by a vote of 14-8. Their bill, S.J.Res. 10, currently has [46 cosponsors](#), including 10 Republicans, with several others having [indicated their support](#) for the measure. With several legislative vehicles to which the repeal measure has been or could be attached currently in conference, we urge you to seize this moment and finalize a repeal of the 2002 Iraq AUMF.

The 2002 Iraq AUMF was originally passed to authorize the U.S. war against Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq. Saddam Hussein was removed from power in 2003, the war against his regime was [declared over](#) in 2011, and the administration has [affirmed](#) that it is not relying on the 2002 Iraq AUMF for any ongoing operations. However, leaving this authorization on the books has left it susceptible to abuse. The most egregious example of such abuse was when former President Trump [relied](#) on it to justify his lethal strike against Iranian general Qassem Soleimani, recklessly risking a new war with Iran that Congress never approved.

Much work has been done to rescind this dangerous, outdated, and overstretched authorization, both by activists across the country and by bipartisan majorities in both chambers of Congress. We have an opportunity to secure an important, historic win that helps get Congress back in the business of upholding its constitutional mandate to decide when and where our nation goes to war. But the work is not yet complete. We strongly urge you to send a measure repealing the 2002 Iraq AUMF to the president's desk at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Baptists  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Friends Service Committee  
Brennan Center for Justice  
Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy  
Coalition for Peace Action  
Council for a Livable World  
Democratic Socialists of America International Committee  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Human Rights First  
Interfaith Network on Drone Warfare  
National Religious Campaign Against Torture  
Project on Government Oversight  
R Street Institute  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries  
Secure Families Initiative  
VoteVets  
Win Without War

Cc: House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Chair Patrick Leahy, Vice Chair Richard Shelby, Chair Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member Kay Granger, Chair Jack Reed, Ranking Member Jim Inhofe, Chair Adam Smith, Ranking Member Mike Rogers, Chair Bob Menendez, Ranking Member Jim Risch, Chair Gregory Meeks, Ranking Member Michael McCaul