

April 13, 2026

The Honorable Brian Mast
Chair
U.S. House of Representatives Committee
on Foreign Affairs
2182 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gregory Meeks
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives Committee
on Foreign Affairs
2310 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Risch
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Mast, Ranking Member Meeks, Chair Risch, and Ranking Member Shaheen,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to urge you to lead in reasserting Congress's constitutional authority over matters of war and peace.

Keeping Americans safe means having a plan. It also means upholding the constitutional framework that ensures decisions of war are deliberate, accountable, and shared among the branches of government.

The Founders were clear: Article I of the Constitution vests in Congress—not the president—the sole authority to declare war, fund military action, and oversee its execution. This separation of powers was designed to prevent unilateral decisions that could entangle the United States in prolonged or unnecessary conflict.

Over time, presidents of both parties have pushed the limits of their constitutional authority, gradually eroding Congress's role in decisions of war and peace. Reasserting Article I authority is not about one president or one party. It is about restoring the constitutional balance that protects our democracy, our national security, and our troops.

Recent military action taken without a vote in Congress, including the rapid expenditure of \$5.6 billion in taxpayer dollars, underscores the urgency of this moment. American service members have already been killed and wounded, and the risk of further escalation remains. Without clear authorization, oversight, and strategy, this conflict could continue to grow and cost more American lives.

[Our troops deserve more than open-ended conflict without a clear mandate.](#) They deserve clarity, accountability, and a Congress willing to exercise its oversight authority over the executive branch.

As leaders of your respective committees, you play a critical role in ensuring that Congress fulfills its constitutional responsibilities. We urge you to:

1. Advance measures requiring congressional authorization before further military escalation;
2. Conduct robust oversight of ongoing military operations and expenditures;
3. Reaffirm Congress's Article I authority over war powers and the use of taxpayer funds; and
4. Revisit and reform the War Powers Resolution to ensure that Congress has a meaningful consultative and decisionmaking role in any significant military deployment.

This is a bipartisan responsibility. The Constitution is clear and the stakes are high.

We stand ready to work with you on a bipartisan basis to restore the proper balance of powers, protect American lives, and ensure that decisions about war are made with the accountability the Constitution demands.

Sincerely,

Issue One
Common Cause
Democracy Matters
Faith in Democracy
Mormon Women for Ethical Government
Principles First
Project on Government Oversight
Protect Democracy
RepresentUs
Stand Up America
The Chamberlain Network
Union of Concerned Scientists

CC:

The House Committee on Armed Services
The Senate Committee on Armed Services
The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence