

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 10, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

We write to follow up on our request that you bring before the House a formal authorization for the use of military force (AUMF) against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or Daesh.

We commend your statements in December 2015 in support of updating an AUMF to reflect U.S. efforts against ISIL in Iraq and Syria and agree with your statement that "Congress is the one who declares war. This is Congress' responsibility." Further, we appreciate your recent efforts to explore support within your Caucus for a debate and a vote on an ISIL-AUMF.

While members may have differing views on the scope of a new authorization for the use of military force, we can all agree that Congress has a Constitutional duty to debate and declare war. Indeed, the Fiscal Year 2016 Omnibus Appropriations bill included Sense of Congress language adopted on a bipartisan basis in the House Appropriations Committee stating that:

- (A) Congress finds that –
- (1) The United States has been engaged in military operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) for more than 8 months;
 - (2) President Obama submitted an authorization for the use of military force against ISIL in February 2015; and
 - (3) Under article 1, section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the authority to "declare war".
- (b) Therefore, Congress has a constitutional duty to debate and determine whether or not to authorize the use of military force against ISIL.

Congress cannot continue to abdicate its constitutional authority to authorize military action abroad. We stand ready to work with you to prioritize the consideration of an authorization for the use of military force against ISIL before the House as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



WALTER B. JONES
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress



ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress

Thomas Massie

THOMAS MASSIE
Member of Congress

Beto O'Rourke.

BETO O'ROURKE
Member of Congress

Richard Hanna

RICHARD L. HANNA
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter

LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison

KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress

Justin Amash

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Member of Congress

John Garamendi

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Jan Schakowsky

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Sam Farr

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Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio

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David N. Cicilline

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Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.

JOHN CONYERS, JR.
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley

MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress

John Lewis

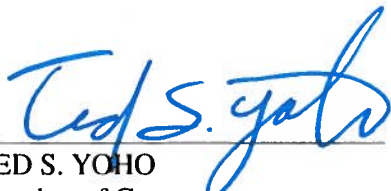
JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress

Richard M. Nolan

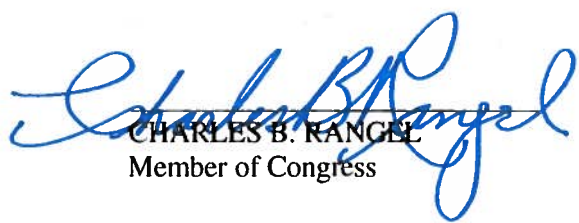
RICHARD M. NOLAN
Member of Congress

Michael M. Honda

MICHAEL M. HONDA
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TED S. YOHO
Member of Congress



CHARLES B. RANGEL
Member of Congress



Member of Congress



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