

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2017

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

Dear Speaker Ryan:

We write to you with a sense of urgency and ask that the U.S. House of Representatives immediately begin a serious debate on the use of military force (AUMF) against the Islamic State and express that the President must seek approval from Congress before taking any further military action against the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad. As you know, we represent a diverse group of political views, but on this matter we are united. We believe that Congress has an important role to play, and based on current events, such a debate should occur as soon as possible.

For too long, the United States has conducted military operations against the Islamic State under the justification of the outdated 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF). The U.S. has steadily escalated its role and military presence against the Islamic State forces in Syria and Iraq, including additional deployments over the past two months. It is past time for the House to debate and vote on an AUMF that defines the purpose, nature and limits of U.S. military engagement against the Islamic State.

Furthermore, the U.S. has now carried out its first direct military action against the Syrian regime since the country's civil war began six years ago, again without any authorization by Congress. We believe the President must present a strategy and seek the approval of Congress before any additional military action is taken against the Syrian regime.

We know that you share our respect for the prerogatives, rights and obligations of the Congress as defined under Article I of the Constitution. Congress cannot continue to remain silent and ignore its responsibilities under the Constitution. Engaging in these debates is the minimum we owe the American people and our brave men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



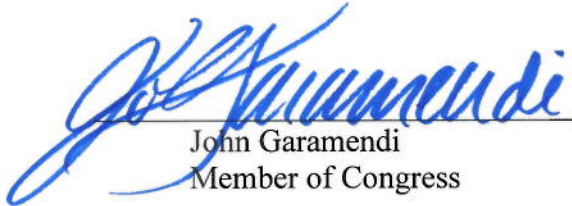
Thomas Massie
Member of Congress



John Lewis
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



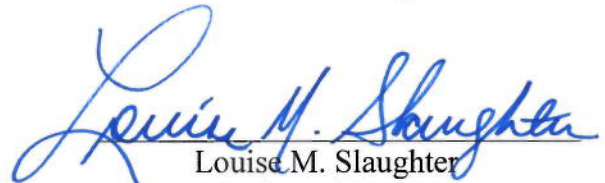
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



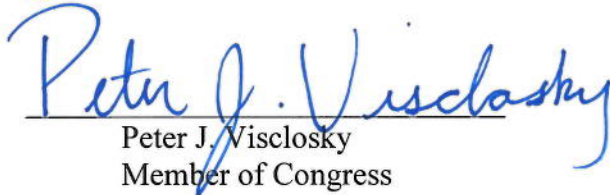
Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



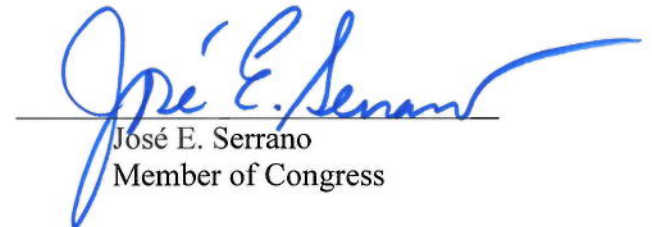
Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress




Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

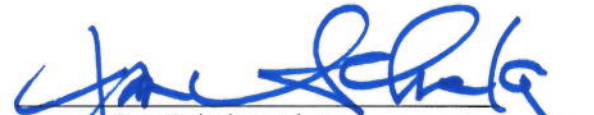



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress




José E. Serrano
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

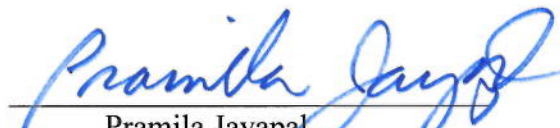

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

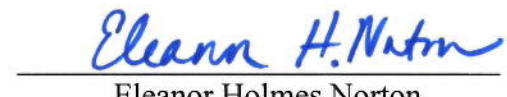

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress


Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress


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Joseph P. Kennedy, III
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Pramila Jayapal
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Jackie Speier
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Raúl M. Grijalva
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Bobby L. Rush
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Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



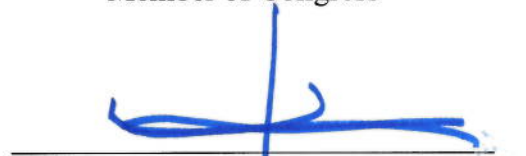
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



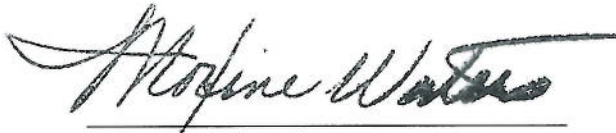
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



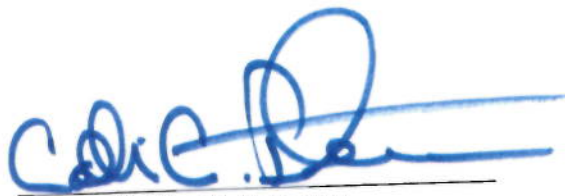
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Justin Amash
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
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Collin C. Peterson
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Ted Lieu
Member of Congress