

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 11, 2019

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Thornberry,

As the House continues its work on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20), we urge you to include language prohibiting U.S. offensive military operations in the Republic of Iran and prohibiting direct action against Iran or its proxies without Congressional authorization.

We're concerned about the recent escalation of tensions between the U.S. and Iran. The Trump Administration's deployment of the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and a bomber task force to the Middle East, along with Iran's recent threats to resume higher uranium enrichment have further increased the risk of a military confrontation.

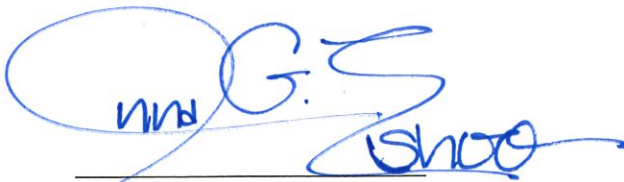
Reports that the White House is considering military plans for war with Iran that include the deployment of 120,000 U.S. troops to the Middle East without notifying and briefing Congressional leaders is equally concerning.

Military action should only be used as a measure of last resort and any decision to do so must first be authorized by Congress which has the sole authority to declare war under Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. The Committee should make this clear to President Trump and his national security team.

We once again urge you to include language in the FY20 NDAA prohibiting U.S. offensive military operations in the Republic of Iran and prohibiting direct action against Iran or its proxies without Congressional authorization to ensure any decision to use military force against Iran is debated and considered by Congress in front of the American people.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



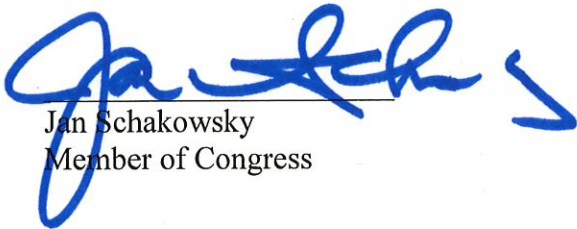
Thomas Massie
Member of Congress



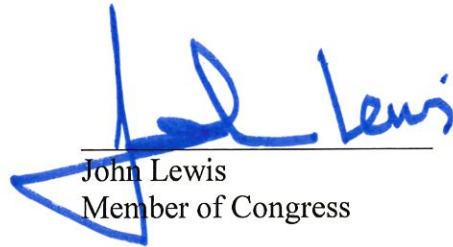
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



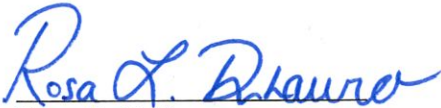
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



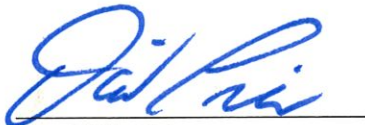
John Lewis
Member of Congress



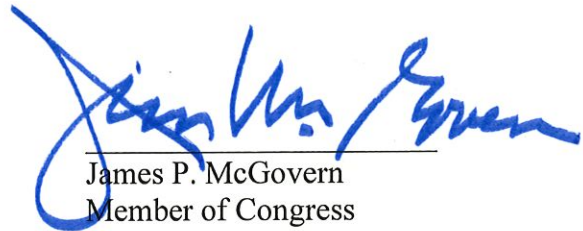
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



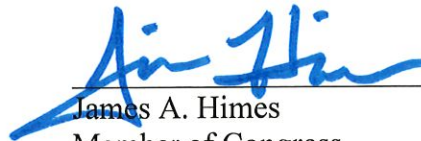
David E. Price
Member of Congress



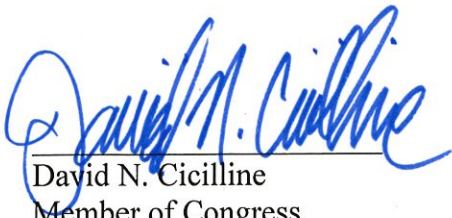
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Katie Hill
Member of Congress



James A. Himes
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



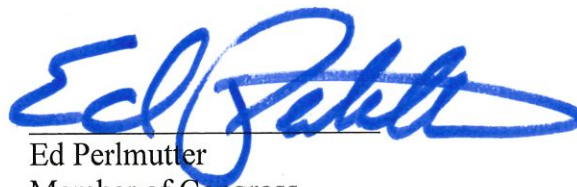
Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Mark Takano
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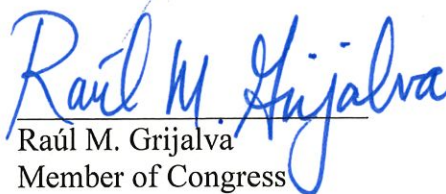
Chellie Pingree
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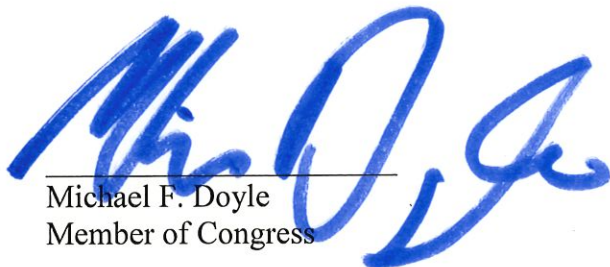
Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



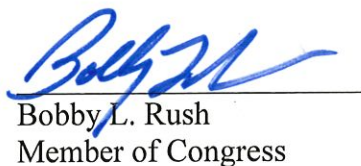
Michael F. Doyle
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
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Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



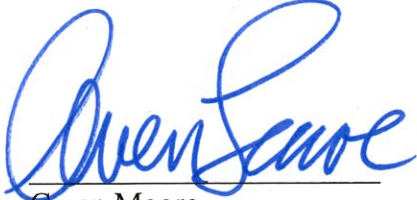
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Andy Levin
Member of Congress



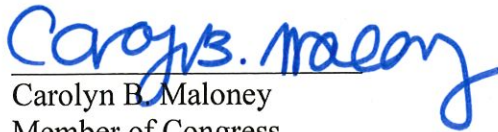
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress





Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

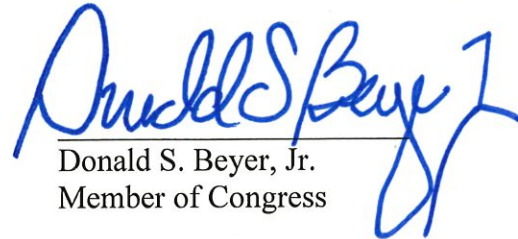



Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

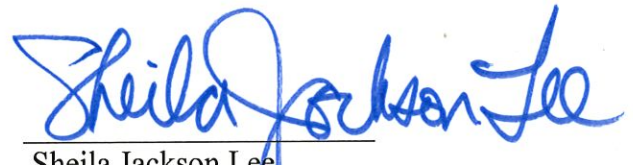

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress


Dina Titus
Member of Congress


Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress


Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress


Julia Brownley
Member of Congress


Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Sean Casten
Member of Congress


Josh Harder
Member of Congress