

## Public Statements by House Members who voted NO on FY20 NDAA Conference Report

### NAYS - 48:

<u>Amash</u>	García (IL)	Meng
Bass	<i>Gohmert</i>	Nadler
Blumenauer	Gomez	Napolitano
<i>Buck</i>	<i>Griffith</i>	Neguse
Chu, Judy	Grijalva	Ocasio-Cortez
Clarke (NY)	Huffman	Omar
Cohen	Jayapal	Pocan
Davis, Danny K.	Kennedy	Pressley
DeFazio	Khanna	Raskin
DeGette	Kildee	<i>Rice (SC)</i>
DeSaulnier	Lee (CA)	Schakowsky
Dingell	Levin (MI)	Tlaib
Doyle, Michael F.	Lowenthal	Tonko
Engel	<i>Massie</i>	Velázquez
Espallat	<i>McClintock</i>	Watson Coleman
Gabbard	McGovern	Welch

**Amash** (via [Twitter](#)): “Voted no on the NDAA, which allows indefinite detention of Americans without charge/trial, reauthorizes intelligence agencies without reforms to protect Americans’ rights, violates the original budget caps, and makes no reforms to rein in unsustainable spending. It passed 377-48.”

**DeFazio** (in [floor debate](#)): “Beyond bloated Pentagon spending, I am extremely disappointed that the Conference Report strips out [provisions that would have prevented the president from using unauthorized force against Iran, prohibited U.S. support for and participation in the Saudi-led coalition’s military operations in Yemen, and repealed the long-outdated 2002 authorization for the use of military force \(AUMF\) in Iraq.](#) These provisions passed with bipartisan support in the House, and failure to include them is yet another abdication of Congress’s constitutional war powers. I have always advocated for re-affirming Congress’s constitutional authority to declare war and limiting the president’s authority to engage in armed conflict without the consent of Congress and will continue to do so.”

**Dingell** (via [Twitter](#)): “The Defense budget also does nothing to end the disastrous war in Yemen. 24 million Yemeni’s are facing death, starvation and disease. [U.S. involvement in Yemen must come to an end.](#) For those reasons, I cannot support this defense budget.”

**Khanna** (in [floor debate](#)): “Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this defense authorization. There are many things that you can call the bill, but it is Orwellian to call it

progressive. Let's speak in facts. When President Obama left, the defense budget was \$618 billion. This defense budget is \$120 billion more than what President Obama left us with. That could fund free public college for every American. It could fund access to high-speed, affordable internet for every American. But it is worse: the bipartisan provision to stop the war in Yemen, stripped by the White House; the bipartisan amendment to stop the war in Iran, stripped by the White House; the bipartisan provision to repeal the 2002 George W. Bush authorization for the war in Iraq which is sending our troops overseas, stripped by the White House. At some time, we can't just rhetorically give standing ovations when the President says that we are going to end endless wars and continue to vote to fund them. It wasn't just President George W. Bush who committed the biggest blunder of foreign policy in the 21st century by sending us to Iraq. It was the abdication of this body, with many Members of Congress who voted right with him. My question is: When are we going to listen to the American people? When are we going to do our Article I duty and stop funding these endless wars and start funding our domestic priorities?"

**Lee** (in [floor debate](#)): "Unfortunately, this bill does not include very important provisions, such as the provision to end support for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, and two provisions I fought to include that would help end our forever wars. The first is the repeal of the 2001 authorization to use military force, which is a blank check for endless war. The second is the repeal of the 2002 AUMF. The House passed my amendment to repeal the 2002 AUMF. It makes absolutely no sense that this outdated AUMF still exists. We must restore some congressional authority on matters of war and peace and finally repeal these AUMFs. Also, I encourage my colleagues to read The Washington Post's recently published "Afghanistan Papers," if they need any more justification for why Congress must reassert itself in matters of war and peace. I can tell you, it is an appalling and shocking read. Finally, the bill before us authorizes a Pentagon budget of about \$733 billion, which is the largest ever authorized. Given the waste, fraud, and abuse at the Pentagon, the failure of the Pentagon to pass an even basic audit, and the unnecessary spending, I am simply unable to support this bill."

**Levin (MI)** (via [Twitter](#)): This summer, I voted to pass the House's National Defense Authorization Act (#NDAA)—a bill that would prevent an unconstitutional war in Iran, enshrine comprehensive protections from dangerous #PFAS chemicals, block funding for a wasteful border wall, and more ... While I believe the House bill we passed this summer met this standard, I fear the bill before us now does not. Critically important provisions have been stripped from the text, like my bill to make clear that this President lacks the authority to launch a dangerous war with Iran and language to control the discharge of #PFAS into our drinking water."

**Lowenthal** (via [Twitter](#)): "Thank you to our Democratic negotiators who secured important priorities in this year's NDAA, from military pay increases to paid leave for federal workers. However, I can't support a bill that allows the president to circumvent Congress in authorizing military action. I also can't support a bill that continues to irresponsibly increase the amount we spend on our military programs. And, I certainly cannot support a bill that supports the terrible foreign policy decisions of this administration. We saw President Trump's reckless behavior in

Syria. He has repeatedly shown willingness to undermine our national security by diverting military resources to a border wall. And he continues to support the appalling and counterproductive Saudi war in Yemen. Congress needs to restore sanity and oversight to our foreign policy. And, we need to ensure our national security while balancing military spending with critical priorities here at home. I cannot support a defense authorization act that does not advance these goals”

**Ocasio-Cortez** (via [Twitter](#)): “Proud to join [@RepRoKhanna](#) in voting NO on the NDAA. As Ro says, when Pres Obama left, the US defense budget was \$618 BILLION/year. It will now be \$120 billion more than that. No pundits ask how we pay for it, or blast it as “free stuff.” We just accept it. Pay attention.”

**Pocan** (via [official statement](#)): “I did not support the NDAA in July and I did not support it today... At the same time that this administration has cut food stamps, Medicaid and reproductive health services from everyday Americans, this president wants to add more than a hundred billion dollars to continue endless and unauthorized wars, ban transgender troops, keep Guantanamo Bay open, allow the unchecked contamination of water supplies with polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and establish a Space Force... This is the definition of government waste.”

**Pressley** (via [official statement](#)): “During a time when the Occupant of this White House is engaging in reckless, dangerous and militarized foreign policy, Congress must push back and reaffirm its role as a check on this Administration... The NDAA is an opportunity for Congress to legislate our values and usher a new era of foreign policy centered in peace, justice and human rights. Unfortunately, this NDAA misses the mark. Therefore, I plan to vote no.”

**Schakowsky** (via [official statement](#)): “However, numerous policy priorities I consider urgent were stripped from the bill by Senate Republicans... The bill no longer ends arms sales to Saudi Arabia, allowing them to continue their brutal campaign in Yemen. The NDAA does nothing to prevent President Trump from starting an unnecessary war with Iran. The terribly outdated 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) in Iraq remains in place. And funding for dangerous low-yield nuclear weapons will continue to flow. Due to these flaws in the legislation, I voted no on this bill.”

**Tlaib** (in [floor debate](#)): “I could not support and cannot support a bill that provides \$738 billion for wars and defense contractors while, this year, we only provided \$190 billion in discretionary funding for healthcare, education, antipoverty programs, and workforce development. After the House took action to end U.S. involvement in the war and humanitarian crisis in Yemen, this NDAA fails to include necessary provisions to end the U.S. support for military action in Yemen. This bill also keeps Guantanamo Bay open, provides for new nuclear warheads, and establishes the absurd Space Force. By removing the House’s repeal of the Iraq war AUMF, we have also agreed to endless war abroad... So I am asking my colleagues to please not rubberstamp this annual increase of the world’s largest military budget. We can do better.”