

May 21, 2019

To: Members of Congress

We write to request that Congress take urgent action to halt a march to war with Iran.

The Trump administration, spurred on by National Security Advisor John Bolton, has moved the U.S. into a war posture. Over the last few weeks, Bolton pushed through unprecedented sanctions and escalated the war of words intended to provoke retaliation from the Iranians. Now, Bolton has used a routine carrier deployment to the Middle East to threaten Iran with “unrelenting force” and has overseen the revision of war plans that would send 120,000 troops to the Middle East if Iran takes his bait.

Congress cannot be complicit as the playbook for the 2003 invasion of Iraq is repeated before our eyes. The administration has increasingly politicized intelligence on Iran’s nuclear program, and falsely asserts ties between Iran and al-Qaeda. Worryingly, the administration does not perceive that it is constrained by the lack of Congressional authorization for war with Iran, and has even suggested that the 2001 authorization to use military force could be twisted to green light strikes against Iran.

As the drumbeat for war grows louder, Congress must fulfill its Constitutional duty and enact further constraints to unequivocally prevent the administration from launching an unauthorized war. We urge you to pass legislation to bar funding for an unauthorized war with Iran - The Prevention of Unconstitutional War with Iran Act (S. 1039/H.R. 2354) - together with legislation that makes clear that no existing statutory authorization, including the 2001 authorization for use of military force, provides for war with Iran. Moreover, we urge all lawmakers to issue statements making clear that no authorization for an Iran war exists, and that if the Trump administration seeks war it must first come to Congress for debate.

The American people do not want another disastrous war of choice in the Middle East. Congress has the chance to stop a war before it starts. Please take action before it is too late.

Sincerely,

About Face: Veterans Against the War  
Americans for Peace Now  
Beyond the Bomb  
Brave New Films  
Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists  
Center for American Progress  
Center for International Policy  
Chino Cienega Foundation  
CODEPINK  
Common Defense  
Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety  
Council for a Livable World

Council on American-Islamic Relations  
CREDO  
Daily Kos  
Dallas Peace and Justice Center  
Demand Progress  
Environmentalists Against War  
Federation of American Scientists  
Foreign Policy for America  
Franciscan Action Network  
Freedom Forward  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ  
Global Security Institute  
Global Zero  
Indivisible  
J Street  
Jewish Voice for Peace  
Just Foreign Policy  
MADRE  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
NIAC Action  
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation  
Nuclear Watch New Mexico  
Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance  
Palestine Action Committee of Texas  
Pax Christi International  
Peace Action  
Peace Development Fund  
Peace Direct  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Ploughshares Fund  
PRBB Foundation  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Project South  
Public Citizen  
Rachel Carson Council  
RootsAction.org  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
The Peace Farm  
Tri-Valley CAREs  
Truman National Security Project  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
United for Peace and Justice  
Veterans For Peace  
VoteVets

Washington Against Nuclear Weapons  
Western States Legal Foundation  
Win Without War  
Women's Action for New Directions