

June 11, 2025

Senate Democratic Leader Charles Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Minority Leader Schumer,

As organizations representing millions of Americans and New Yorkers who oppose war, we do not expect to agree with you on every issue. Yet we do expect that you will treat weighty issues of war and peace as a statesman and with the serious gravity that it deserves.

Unfortunately, your recent social media video seeking to out-hawk President Trump's negotiations with Iran fails that test.¹ Your comments parroted the very same bad faith and conspiracy-fueled attacks that Republicans wrongly leveled at President Obama in a bid to tank his Iran negotiations a decade ago. We urge you to retract your video and to move in line with the vast majority of Americans who support a deal with Iran and oppose a disastrous war.²

There are many valid reasons to stand up to and challenge President Trump. Yet negotiations aimed at ensuring Iran can't weaponize its nuclear program and preventing war deserve support, not political attacks.

We recognize that you and fellow Democrats may have some concerns on President Trump's approach toward Iran that could be valid and worth sharing. For example, President Trump's open threat to bomb Iran if negotiations fail is deeply reckless and risks undermining Congress' Constitutional role as the sole body in charge of declaring war. When President Obama's administration pursued its historic diplomatic efforts with Iran ten years ago, their Administration held transparent and clear briefings with Members of Congress, and this Administration should be no different; you are well within your role as an institutional leader in Congress to uphold this good governance expectation without attacking the end goals of the process altogether. We would welcome these more principled examples of critiques from you and your party.

Yet rather than offer valid criticism or warn about the risks of war that the majority of Americans desperately want to avoid, you chose to argue that the real danger is if Trump chickens out on some of his hardline demands that experts widely believe will tank negotiations and push the

¹ Tweet from @SenSchumer on June 2, 2025: <https://x.com/SenSchumer/status/1929676991789203528>.

² Shibley Telhami and Michael Hanmer, "Attitudes Toward Iran's Nuclear Program," May 2025, https://criticalissues.umd.edu/sites/criticalissues.umd.edu/files/Questionnaire_May2025.pdf.

U.S. toward war. This is profoundly reckless. All of those whose lives would be on the line in a war with Iran - in the United States, Iran and across the Middle East - deserve much better from you.

If Democrats want to be a party that delivers for Americans, they cannot continue this negligent abandonment of the pro-peace lane to the Republican party. We urge you to provide the urgent leadership that your party needs, including by retracting your attack on ongoing negotiations toward Iran and clarifying that your preference is for a deal, not war with Iran. If you cannot provide this leadership, we urge you to step down in favor of someone who can.

Sincerely,

Action Corps

Brooklyn for Peace

Codepink

Demand Progress

Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace

Global Justice Committee, New York Progressive Action Network

IfNotNow NYC

Just Foreign Policy

L.I.Alliance

Long Island Progressive Coalition

Massachusetts Peace Action

Minnesota Peace Project

Muslim Peace Fellowship

National Iranian American Council Action

New York State Council of Churches

North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)

Nukewatch

Peace Action

Peace Action Manhattan

Peace Action New York State

Peace Corps Iran Association

PSR Arizona chapter

Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft

RootsAction

South Country Peace Group

Stu Naismith Chapter 90 Binghamton NY

We Are Revolutionary

WESPAC Foundation, Inc.