

July 13, 2026

Dear Members of Congress,

We write to insist lawmakers take concrete action regarding President Trump's decision to defy Congress and the American people yet again by reintroducing United States armed forces into an unauthorized war against the Islamic Republic of Iran on July 7, 2026.

This follows the Trump administration launching the war without Congressional authorization on February 28, 2026, which led Congress to explicitly direct the removal of U.S. forces from hostilities against Iran under the War Powers Resolution via the passage of H.Con.Res.86 on June 23, 2026. It is hard to imagine a more grievous blow to Congress' authority on matters of war and peace, as well as the proper functioning of our democracy, than the Executive Branch so blatantly ignoring Congress' directive to terminate an illegal war.

Congress should therefore take immediate enforcement action via its power of the purse and decline to advance legislation authorizing or appropriating money for the Department of Defense and other agencies involved in the prosecution of war on Iran unless it includes an explicit ban on such funds being used to pay for unauthorized hostilities against Iran. This includes any forthcoming consideration of appropriations bills for defense or national security and related programs; the National Defense Authorization Act; and the proposed supplemental or any reconciliation package to fund the Iran war. Unless there is a guarantee that an amendment barring funding for the Iran war will be considered amid the debate on these bills, lawmakers must oppose moving to consider them. If such an amendment is not adopted, lawmakers should oppose the final passage of the bills.

Congress has taken the important step of demanding an end to this unpopular, disastrous war. Now, it must make sure that its Constitutional authority is duly enforced by using the considerable leverage at its disposal.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union
Arab Resource & Organizing Center Action (AROC Action)
Arms Control Association
Center for International Policy
CODEPINK
Demand Progress
J Street

National Iranian American Council Action

New Jewish Narrative

Peace Action

Peace Action New York State

Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft

United Church of Christ

Win Without War