November 6th, 2026

Dear Members of Congress,

We write to urge Congress to use every available legislative tool to bring the unauthorized U.S. war with Iran to an end at the earliest possible date, including by withholding appropriations that would fund the war.

Congress has already voted to end these hostilities. H.Con.Res. 86 was the first concurrent War Powers Resolution to pass both chambers since enactment of the War Powers Resolution in 1973, directing the President to remove U.S. forces from hostilities with Iran absent congressional authorization. The administration has nevertheless continued the war, contrary to Congress's directive, and litigation seeking a declaration that the war is unconstitutional is now pending in federal court. Congress must now use its additional authorities, particularly its power of the purse, to ensure that the war ends without further delay. This is an urgent imperative as President Trump repeatedly alludes to potential major escalation.

The American public clearly wants an end to the war, as demonstrated by the overwhelming result in Tuesday's elections. In September, 61 percent of Americans said that the United States should make a deal to end the Iran war as quickly as possible, while only 14 percent disagreed. Public sentiments about the war's economic impact are overwhelming: in mid October, more than four in five Americans said the Iran war was hurting the U.S. economy, and a majority said it was doing so "a great deal." Congress should not continue financing a war that is imposing substantial costs on the American people through higher gasoline, diesel, freight, and consumer prices. This principle already has broad support across civil society: in March, more than 250 civil society organizations urged Congress to reject additional funding that would prolong the Iran war.

The most appropriate and immediate opportunity comes when current government funding expires on December 11, 2026. Congress must ensure that any subsequent continuing resolution, appropriations measure, or other funding or authorization legislation explicitly prohibits any funding for the ongoing, unauthorized hostilities against Iran. Absent any specific Congressional authorization for the war in Iran — as required by the U.S. Constitution and War Powers Act of 1973 — Congress must not allow any appropriated funds to be used for direct strikes inside Iran; U.S. intelligence, targeting, logistical, refueling, or other operational support for Israeli or other partner strikes in Iran; U.S. military enforcement or operational support for blockade or interdiction measures against Iran; or any other other U.S. military activities or expenditures that materially enable these or any other unauthorized hostilities against Iran.

The Senate has particularly strong leverage, as funding legislation there would likely require 60 votes to invoke cloture and advance. This means that Senators who voted to end the war currently have the votes necessary to prevent legislation funding its continuation from advancing. In other words, the unauthorized, deeply unpopular war with Iran can only continue if senators who already voted to end these illegal hostilities now change course and provide the votes necessary to fund the war. Members should publicly commit to opposing any continuing resolution or appropriations package that could provide funding for this war publicly before funding negotiations begin, and make clear now that funding will not be provided unless the legislation mandates an end to the war immediately.

Congress should fund the government, pay federal workers, and protect essential programs. But if supporters of the war refuse to do so unless Congress also funds continued unauthorized hostilities that

are making everyday life unaffordable for many Americans, they should be forced to defend that position before the American people. No member who genuinely opposes the war should shield the war's supporters from having to make that choice. By agreeing in advance to fund the war, lawmakers would not be avoiding a confrontation over government funding — they would be intervening on behalf of the war's supporters, protecting them from having to publicly defend their unpopular position while preemptively surrendering Congress's primary leverage to end the war.

Congress has used its funding leverage over important issues, including in 2025 when Senate Democrats withheld support for government funding while seeking to preserve enhanced ACA subsidies benefiting approximately 25 million Marketplace enrollees. By contrast, the economic consequences of this war reach every American. Census data show that 91.5 percent of U.S. households have at least one vehicle available, directly exposing well over 300 million Americans to gasoline prices, while higher diesel and freight costs affect food and goods throughout the entire economy. Americans understand the connection, too: A Reuters/Ipsos poll found that 86 percent attributed at least a fair amount of responsibility for rising gas prices to the Iran war, while 64 percent said higher gas prices were affecting their household finances.

Members who have voted to end the war should ensure that those votes have practical effect. Continuing to provide the funds necessary for hostilities Congress has already directed should end would contradict the purpose of those votes and understandably deepen public skepticism about whether congressional commitments to end wars translate into action when difficult votes arrive, and whether Congress is capable of serving as a check on President Trump at all – an urgent imperative given the massive electoral rebuke of Trump's Iran war.

We therefore urge Members of Congress to commit now that, beginning with the December 11 funding deadline, they will not advance or support legislation that continues open-ended funding for these unauthorized hostilities, and will insist on a funding ban for the war. That commitment should apply to the continuing resolution, the NDAA, subsequent appropriations legislation, and every other relevant must-pass vehicle until there is a permanent end to U.S. hostilities related to this unauthorized war.

Congress has already voted to end the war. It should now use the powers available to ensure that the war actually ends, rather than provide the funding necessary for it to continue.

Sincerely,

Action Corps
American Friends Service Committee
Association of World Citizens
Center for Economic and Policy Research
Chicago Area Peace Action
Common Defense
Defending Rights & Dissent
Demand Progress
Fellowship of Reconciliation
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Hindus for Human Rights Action
Historians for Peace and Democracy
IfNotNow Movement
IMEU Policy Project

Just Foreign Policy
L.I. Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives
MADRE
Minnesota Peace Project
National Iranian American Council (NIAC)
National Nurses United
New England Peace Pagoda
New Jewish Narrative
Nicaragua Solidarity Coalition
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
Peace Action
Peace Action New York State
Peace and Friendship with the People of Iran
Peace, Justice, Sustainability NOW!
Philly Neighborhood Networks
Pointes For Peace
Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft
ReThinking Foreign Policy
RootsAction
The Riverside Church in the City of New York
WESPAC Foundation, Inc
Whatcom Pax Christi
Women Against Military Madness
Women Cross DMZ
World BEYOND War
Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation