

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 27, 2018

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

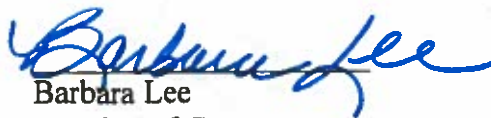
We write to ask that the House of Representatives immediately begin a serious debate and vote on the use of military force (AUMF) regarding the ongoing deployment of U.S. forces in Syria and express that the President must seek approval from Congress before taking any further military action in the region. We believe that Congress must live up to our Constitutional duty to debate and vote on our ongoing military operations without delay.

On January 17, 2018, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson voiced his intention to commit U.S. troops to an indefinite military presence in Syria, with the goals of defeating the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and al-Qaeda, expelling Iran from the region, and coordinating a peace settlement that excludes President Bashar al-Assad. Furthermore, Secretary Tillerson's policies may require an expansion of U.S. military in the region for an extended engagement in the Middle East

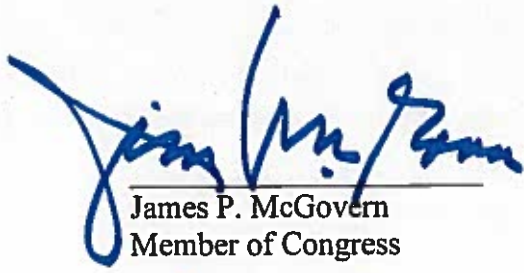
It is past time for the House to debate and vote on a new AUMF that defines the purpose, geography, combat and tactical scope, and the fight against ISIS in Syria and the surrounding region. The debate should also allow members the opportunity to debate and vote on the long-term costs and consequences of and alternatives to military action. We believe that the President must present a strategy and seek the approval of Congress before any additional military action is taken against ISIS and al-Qaeda in Syria, other nations' military forces, or other non-State actors. If the President will not send an AUMF, we ask that you bring forward an AUMF for consideration for a debate and vote.

For far too long, Congress has ignored these ongoing wars. Congress cannot continue to remain silent and abdicate its Constitutional responsibilities. We owe it to our brave service members and the American people to act.

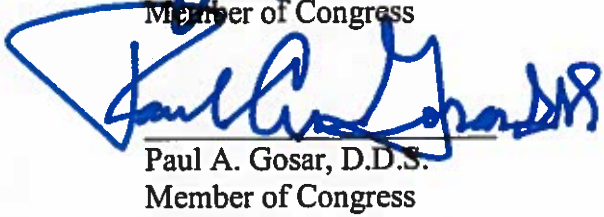
Sincerely,

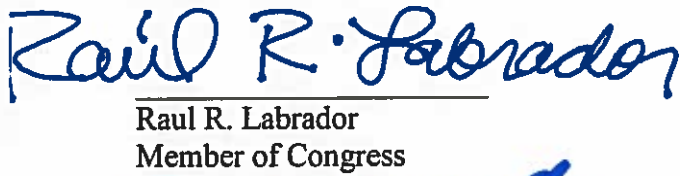
  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

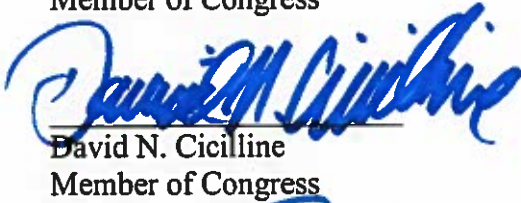
  
Tom Cole  
Member of Congress

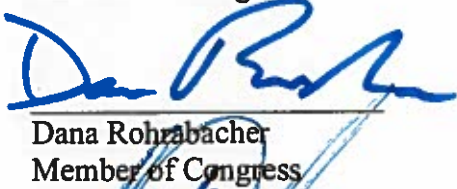
  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

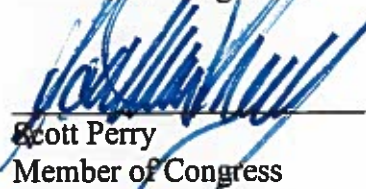
  
Justin Amash  
Member of Congress

  
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

  
Raul R. Labrador  
Member of Congress

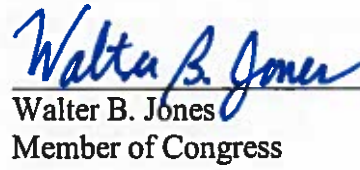
  
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

  
Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress

  
Scott Perry  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Sanford  
Member of Congress

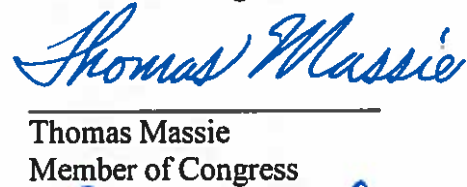
  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

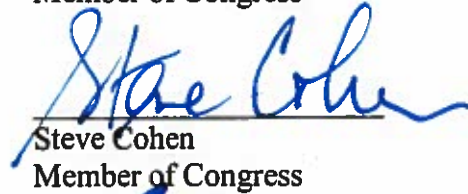
  
Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress

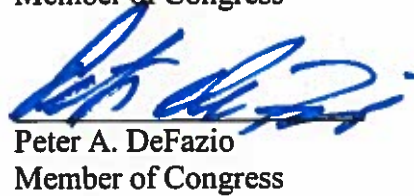
  
Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress

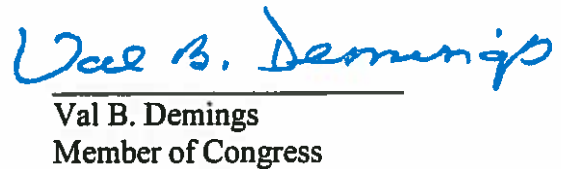
  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

  
Thomas Massie  
Member of Congress


  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

  
Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress


  
Val B. Demings  
Member of Congress

  
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

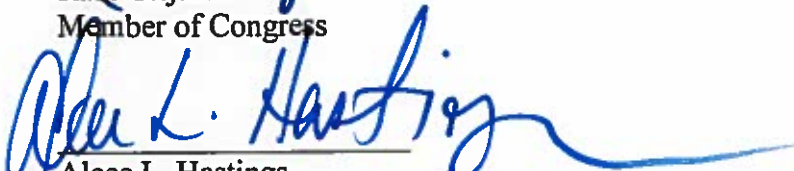
  
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress


  
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

  
Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress

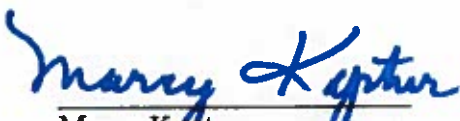
  
Al Green  
Member of Congress


  
Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress


  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

  
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

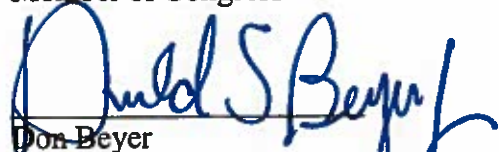
  
Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress


  
Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

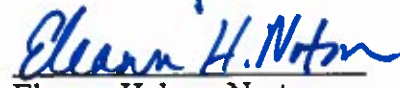
  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

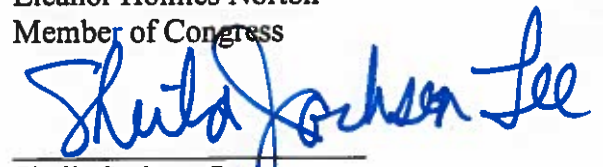
  
Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

  
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

  
Don Beyer  
Member of Congress

  
Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress

  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

  
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

  
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

  
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



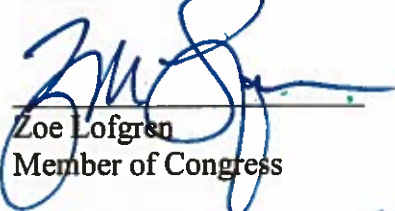
Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



Daniel Kildee  
Member of Congress



Anthony Brown  
Member of Congress



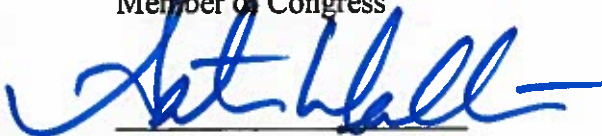
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress



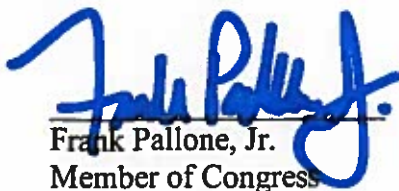
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress



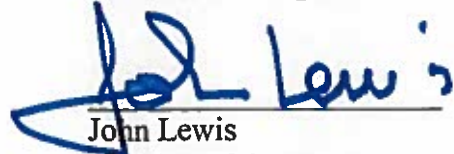
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Ruben L. Kihuen  
Member of Congress



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



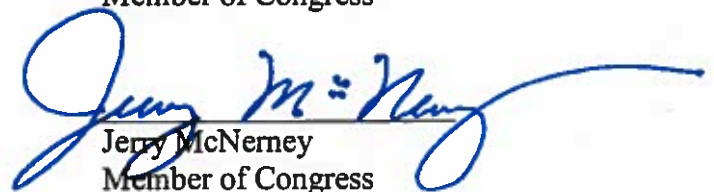
John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



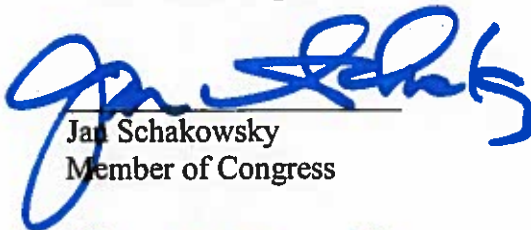
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress



C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



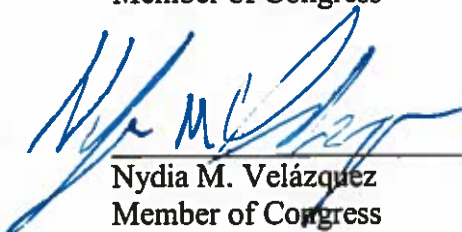
Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



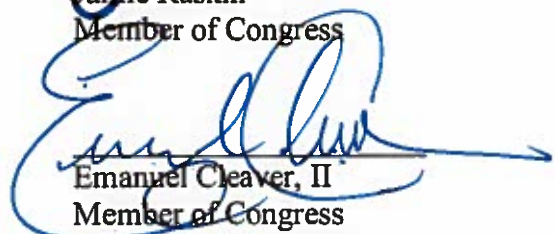
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



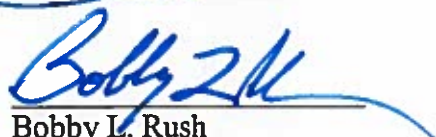
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



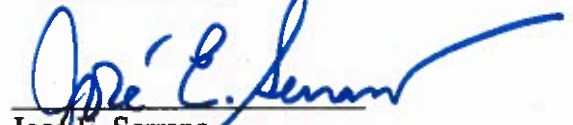
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



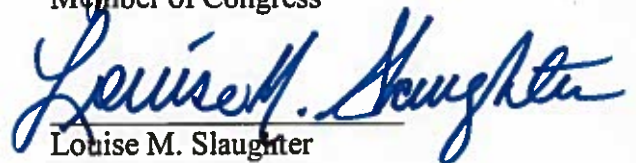
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



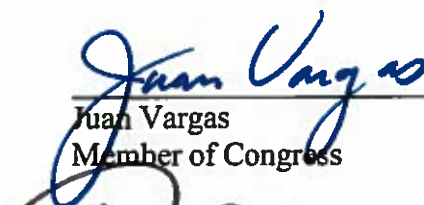
Jose E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



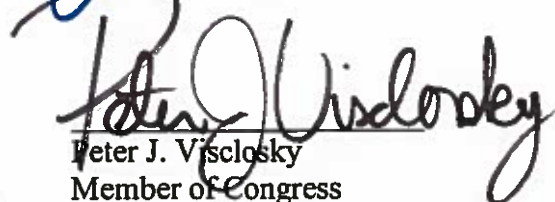
Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress



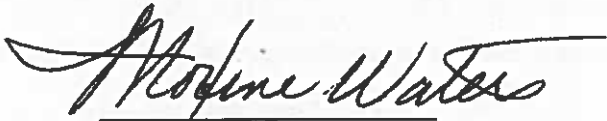
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



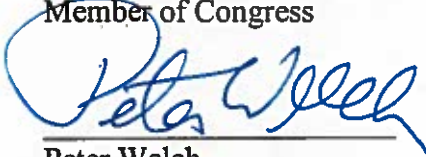
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Peter J. Visclosky  
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



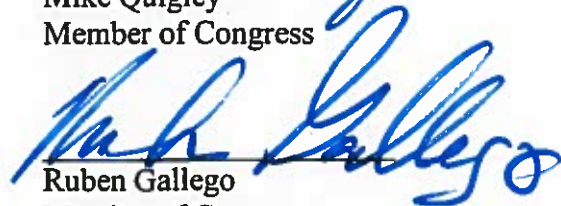
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress




Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



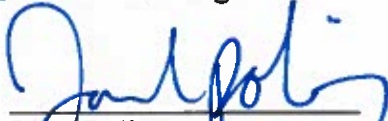
Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



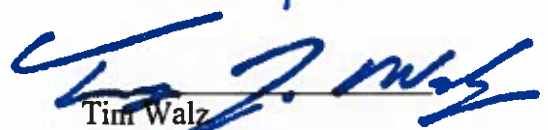
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



John A. Yarmuth  
Member of Congress



Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Tim Walz  
Member of Congress



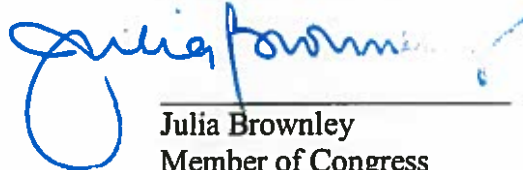
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



Mike Capuano  
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



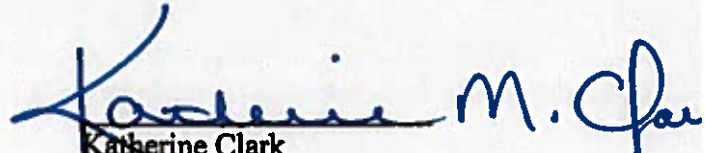
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



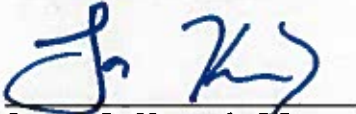
Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress



Alma Adams  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy III  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



Sander Levin  
Member of Congress



Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



Rob Woodall  
Member of Congress