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

Raúl 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 J. 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
Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Alma Adams
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress

Ted Lieu
Member of Congress

Danny Heck
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

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

Sander Levin
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall
Member of Congress