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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

December 7, 2020

The Honorable Peter Visclosky  
Chairman  
Defense Subcommittee  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Defense Subcommittee  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert  
Ranking Member  
Defense Subcommittee  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Ranking Member  
Defense Subcommittee  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Visclosky, Ranking Member Calvert, Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Member Durbin,

As you continue to work on finalizing the FY 2021 Defense Appropriations bill, I write to express my support for retaining key provisions from the House-passed bill that would restore Congress' war powers authority. This includes retaining provisions to finally end the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) related to our military activities in Afghanistan (sec. 9027), to repeal the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq (sec. 9028) in addition to provisions to keep our nation from a needless and damaging war with Iran (sec. 9023 and sec. 9029). I fully support these provisions and urge their inclusion in a final bill.

These provisions help restore Congress Constitutional authority and responsibility to the American people to debate sending our military to engage in war. Unfortunately, under Administrations of both parties, that important responsibility has been severely undermined. Retaining these provisions in a final bill will restore a critical check on reckless military action and ensure that decisions to use U.S. military force are properly debated and considered by Congress.

I am particular supportive of the provision to stop a reckless and needless war with Iran which many experts have made clear would not be in our nation's best interest. The United States can ill-afford another devastating war in the Middle East, and the American people have little taste for such a war. This remains a turbulent region, one where our allies remain ostracized, and where our nation stands one unwise decision away from a new catastrophic war. With so much at stake, Congress must go on record and make clear that it has not authorized the use of military force against Iran and must do so while reiterating the importance of diplomacy and negotiations to help us meet the challenges posed by Iran.

Additionally, I support the repeal of the two outdated AUMF's. As far back as 2014, the Obama Administration had called for the repeal of the 2002 AUMF with Iraq arguing "such a repeal would go much further in giving the American people confidence that ground forces will not be sent into combat in Iraq." Its repeal would also prevent that authorization from being used for purposes which Congress clearly did not intend, such as an excuse for war with Iran. Likewise, nearly 20 years after ushering in America's longest war, the 2001 AUMF has become outdated. And with the current Administration working to end U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan, the continued existence of the 2001 AUMF becomes even more irrelevant while only leaving open its possible use by this or any future Administration to again send our troops into harm's way in this region. Nearly twenty years of this passage, its time for Congress to end this authorization and if need be, debate and consider what authority is needed to address any legitimate threats that may face our nation. But the harmful status quo cannot continue to operate on autopilot.

The House passed provisions send a strong message that U.S. military action should only be used as a measure of last resort and any decision to do so must first be authorized by Congress which has the sole authority to declare war under Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. Again, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gwen Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gwen" and last name "Moore" clearly distinguishable.

Gwen Moore  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS