

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. J. RES. 117

To direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 5, 2026

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

JOINT RESOLUTION

To direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) Congress has the sole power to declare war
6 under article I, section 8, clause 11 of the United
7 States Constitution.

8 (2) The President has a constitutional responsi-
9 bility to take actions to defend the United States, its

1 territories, its possessions, citizens, service members,
2 and diplomats from attack.

3 (3) Congress has not declared war upon Iran or
4 any person or organization within Iran, nor enacted
5 a specific statutory authorization for the use of mili-
6 tary force within or against Iran.

7 (4) President Donald J. Trump and senior ex-
8 ecutive branch officials have repeatedly referred to
9 the existence of a state of “war”, including—

10 (A) President Trump on February 28,
11 2026, stating, “The lives of courageous Amer-
12 ican heroes may be lost, and we may have cas-
13 ualties. That often happens in war.”;

14 (B) President Trump on March 4, 2026,
15 stating, “We are doing very well on the
16 warfront, to put it mildly, I would say.”;

17 (C) Secretary of Defense Hegseth on
18 March 4, 2026, stating “The terms of this war
19 will be set by us at every step.”; and

20 (D) Secretary of State Rubio on March 3,
21 2026, stating, “As of a few minutes ago, before
22 I left, 9,000 Americans have been able to leave
23 the region since the start of this war.”.

24 (5) The President notified Congress on March
25 2, 2026, pursuant to the War Powers Resolution of

1 1973, of the initiation of military force against Iran
2 on February 28, 2026. The notification stated that
3 “it is not possible at this time to know the full scope
4 and duration of military operations that may be nec-
5 essary. As such, United States forces remain pos-
6 tured to take further action, as necessary and appro-
7 priate, to address further threats and attacks upon
8 the United States or its allies and partners, and en-
9 sure the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran
10 ceases being a threat to the United States, its allies,
11 and the international community.”.

12 (6) The President and the Secretary of Defense
13 have publicly acknowledged the possibility of using
14 ground forces in Iran, including—

15 (A) President Trump, stating on March 2,
16 2026, “I don’t have the yips with respect to
17 boots on the ground—like every president says,
18 ‘There will be no boots on the ground.’ I don’t
19 say it. I say ‘probably don’t need them,’ [or] ‘if
20 they were necessary’.”; and

21 (B) Secretary Hegseth, responding on
22 March 2, 2026, to whether “there [are] cur-
23 rently any American boots on the ground in
24 Iran?” by stating, “No, but we are not going to

1 go into the exercise of what we will or will not
2 do.”.

3 (7) As of March 5, 2026, six United States
4 servicemembers have been killed and at least 18
5 servicemembers have been wounded.

6 (8) On March 2, 2026, an official account of
7 the Department of State posted a social media mes-
8 sage that urged Americans to “DEPART NOW”
9 and evacuate from Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq,
10 Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza, Jordan, Kuwait,
11 Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the
12 United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The United
13 States embassies in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Leb-
14 anon closed, as of March 5, 2026, amid drone
15 strikes, and the embassies in Kuwait City and Ri-
16 yadh were attacked directly.

17 (9) The use of military force within or against
18 Iran constitutes the introduction of United States
19 Armed Forces into hostilities within the meaning of
20 section 4(a) of the War Powers Resolution (50
21 U.S.C. 1543(a)).

22 (10) Section 1013 of the Department of State
23 Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 (50
24 U.S.C. 1546a) provides that any joint resolution or
25 bill requiring the removal of United States Armed

1 Forces from imminent engagement in hostilities
2 without a declaration of war or specific statutory au-
3 thorization shall be considered in accordance with
4 the expedited procedures under section 601(b) of the
5 International Security and Arms Export Control Act
6 of 1976 (Public Law 94–329).

7 **SEC. 2. REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES**
8 **FROM HOSTILITIES WITHIN OR AGAINST**
9 **IRAN.**

10 (a) REMOVAL.—Pursuant to section 1013 of the De-
11 partment of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1984
12 and 1985 (50 U.S.C. 1546a), and in accordance with sec-
13 tion 601(b) of the International Security Assistance and
14 Arms Export Control Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–329),
15 Congress hereby directs the President to remove the
16 United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or
17 against Iran, unless explicitly authorized by a declaration
18 of war or a specific authorization for use of military force.

19 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
20 tion may be construed to prevent the United States
21 from—

- 22 (1) defending against an attack on the United
23 States or its personnel or facilities in other nations;
24 (2) collecting, analyzing, or sharing intelligence,
25 including with the State of Israel and United States

1 partners and allies, and international organizations
2 as appropriate, related to defending against threats
3 from Iran or its proxies;

4 (3) assisting Israel and other nations—

5 (A) in taking defensive measures to protect
6 their territory from retaliatory attacks by Iran
7 or its proxies; or

8 (B) by providing defensive materiel sup-
9 port for such defensive measures; or

10 (4) providing assistance for the security, depar-
11 ture, and evacuation to United States citizens af-
12 fected by the hostilities.

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