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H. J. RES. 176

Authorizing the use of the United States Armed Forces against the
Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 2026

Mr. BARRETT submitted the following joint resolution; which was referred to
the Committee on Foreign Affairs

JOINT RESOLUTION

Authorizing the use of the United States Armed Forces
against the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran is the leading state
sponsor of terrorism and an adversary of the United
States;

Whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran seeks to pose a threat
to the United States, its Armed Forces, and allies
through its ballistic missile program, its sponsorship of
terrorist proxy forces, and continued pursuit of a nuclear
weapon;

Whereas should the Government of the Islamic Republic of
Iran obtain a nuclear weapon, it would not hesitate to
use such weapon on the United States or its allies;

Whereas the Constitution vests Congress with the sole authority to declare war under article 1, section 8;

Whereas the President of the United States took military action on February 28, 2026, against the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and later submitted a report to Congress on March 2, 2026, pursuant to the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93–148);

Whereas Congress has not declared war with respect to, or provided any specific statutory authorization for, hostilities involving United States Armed Forces against the Islamic Republic of Iran;

Whereas the sixty-calendar-day period specified in section 5(b) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(b)) has expired; and

Whereas Congress recognizes that the members of the Armed Forces and all other Americans deserve to know the clear mission scope and objective for the use of any military force: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Joint Resolution may be cited as the “2026 Au-
 5 thorization for Use of Military Force Against Iran”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF UNITED STATES**
 7 **ARMED FORCES.**

8 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The President is authorized to
 9 use the Armed Forces of the United States as the Presi-

1 dent determines to be necessary and appropriate in order
2 to—

3 (1) successfully demolish, degrade, or defeat the
4 nuclear weapons program and associated delivery
5 systems of the Government of the Islamic Republic
6 of Iran;

7 (2) address imminent threats to the Armed
8 Forces or to United States facilities posed by the Is-
9 lamic Republic of Iran or Iranian-backed forces;

10 (3) enforce a blockade of Iranian ports; and

11 (4) ensure safe passage for United States and
12 allied vessels throughout the Strait of Hormuz, as
13 well as any other vessels the President determines
14 appropriate.

15 (b) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF GROUND TROOPS.—

16 The authority granted in subsection (a) does not include
17 any authorization for the deployment of the Armed Forces
18 for the purpose of—

19 (1) conducting sustained ground combat oper-
20 ations in the territory of Iran;

21 (2) occupying, seizing, or holding territory with-
22 in Iran; or

23 (3) engaging in nation-building, stabilization
24 operations, or the establishment of long-term secu-
25 rity governance within Iran.

1 (c) LIMITED EXCEPTIONS.—Nothing in this section
 2 may be construed to prohibit the use of the Armed Forces
 3 for—

4 (1) the rescue of United States citizens or
 5 members of the Armed Forces; or

6 (2) intelligence collection or sharing activities in
 7 support of the national security of the United
 8 States, or in support of an ally or partner force.

9 (d) WAR POWERS RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS.—

10 (1) SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION.—
 11 Consistent with section 8(a)(1) of the War Powers
 12 Resolution, the Congress declares that this section is
 13 intended to constitute specific statutory authoriza-
 14 tion within the meaning of section 5(b) of the War
 15 Powers Resolution.

16 (2) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER REQUIRE-
 17 MENTS.—Nothing in this joint resolution supersedes
 18 any requirement of the War Powers Resolution.

19 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, at least once
 21 every 30 days, submit to Congress a report on matters
 22 relevant to this joint resolution, including—

23 (1) actions taken pursuant to the exercise of
 24 authority granted in section 2;

1 (2) a description of any military operations con-
2 ducted in reliance on authorities other than the au-
3 thority granted in section 2;

4 (3) an explanation of the legal authority for
5 each action and operation described in paragraphs
6 (1) and (2);

7 (4) policy justifications for each action and op-
8 eration described in paragraphs (1) and (2);

9 (5) the expected scope and duration of hos-
10 tilities associated with each such action and oper-
11 ation; and

12 (6) an assessment of civilian and military cas-
13 ualties.

14 (b) FORM.—The report required by this section shall
15 be submitted in unclassified form and may contain a clas-
16 sified annex.

17 **SEC. 4. SUNSET.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
19 (b), the authority provided in section 2 shall terminate on
20 July 30, 2026.

21 (b) LIMITED WIND-DOWN PERIOD.—For an addi-
22 tional period of not more than 30 days after the date de-
23 scribed in subsection (a), the authority provided in section

1 2 may be exercised only as necessary to end the deploy-
 2 ment or engagement of the Armed Forces.

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