

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. J. RES. 180

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

APRIL 13, 2026

Mr. VAN HOLLEN 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) On February 28, 2026, the Trump Admin-
8 istration launched Operation Epic Fury, introducing
9 the United States Armed Forces into hostilities
10 against Iran.

11 (5) The President notified Congress on March
12 2, 2026, pursuant to the War Powers Resolution of
13 1973, of the initiation of military force against Iran
14 on February 28, 2026. The notification stated that
15 “it is not possible at this time to know the full scope
16 and duration of military operations that may be nec-
17 essary”.

18 (6) President Donald J. Trump has ordered ad-
19 ditional United States military forces to the region
20 to prepare for potential military operations con-
21 sistent with the President’s statements about the
22 possibility of using ground forces against Iran.

23 (7) On April 7, 2026, President Trump threat-
24 ened that “a whole civilization will die tonight, never
25 to be brought back again,” which came after other

1 statements during the war threatening to destroy
2 Iranian civilian infrastructure like power plants.

3 (8) As of April 8, 2026, 13 members of the
4 United States Armed Forces have been killed and
5 380 have been wounded during the war with Iran,
6 and President Trump has said there will likely be
7 additional American lives lost.

8 (9) The use of military force within or against
9 Iran constitutes the introduction of United States
10 Armed Forces into hostilities within the meaning of
11 section 4(a) of the War Powers Resolution (50
12 U.S.C. 1543(a)).

13 (10) Section 1013 of the Department of State
14 Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 (50
15 U.S.C. 1546a) provides that any joint resolution or
16 bill requiring the removal of United States Armed
17 Forces from imminent engagement in hostilities
18 without a declaration of war or specific statutory au-
19 thorization shall be considered in accordance with
20 the expedited procedures under section 601(b) of the
21 International Security and Arms Export Control Act
22 of 1976 (Public Law 94–329).

1 **SEC. 2. REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES**
2 **FROM HOSTILITIES WITHIN OR AGAINST**
3 **IRAN.**

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

13 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
14 tion may be construed to prevent the United States
15 from—

16 (1) defending against an attack on the United
17 States or its personnel or facilities in other nations;

18 (2) collecting, analyzing, or sharing intelligence,
19 including with partner countries who have been at-
20 tacked by Iran since February 28, 2026, and other
21 nations and international organizations as appro-
22 priate, related to defending against threats from
23 Iran or its proxies;

24 (3) assisting partner countries who have been
25 attacked by Iran since February 28, 2026, and other
26 nations—

1 (A) in intercepting retaliatory attacks upon
2 their territory by Iran or its proxies; or

3 (B) by providing defensive materiel sup-
4 port for such defensive measures; or

5 (4) providing assistance for the security, depar-
6 ture, and evacuation of United States citizens af-
7 fected by the hostilities.

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