

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. J. RES. 191

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.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30, 2026

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

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## 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.

1           (2) The President has a constitutional responsi-  
2           bility to take actions to defend the United States  
3           and its territories, possessions, citizens,  
4           servicemembers, and diplomats from attack.

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

9           (4) On February 28, 2026, President Donald J.  
10          Trump declared the start of “major combat oper-  
11          ations in Iran”, and by early March 2026, the  
12          United States had deployed more than 50,000 mem-  
13          bers of the United States Armed Forces to the re-  
14          gion to support the war.

15          (5) Following the initiation of combat oper-  
16          ations, Iran conducted retaliatory drone and ballistic  
17          missiles strikes against hundreds of targets, includ-  
18          ing United States embassies, consulates, and mili-  
19          tary bases, across Bahrain, Cyprus, Iraq, Israel,  
20          Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and  
21          the United Arab Emirates. 13 American  
22          servicemembers have been killed.

23          (6) On March 2, 2026, the Islamic Revolu-  
24          tionary Guard Corps (IRGC) effectively closed the  
25          Strait of Hormuz to all vessels, resulting in a pre-

1       cipitous drop in maritime traffic, widespread energy  
2       shortages, and worldwide economic disruption.

3           (7) On April 12, 2026, President Trump or-  
4       dered a complete naval blockade of Iranian ports.

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

10          (9) Pursuant to the War Powers Resolution (50  
11       U.S.C. 1541 et seq.), the President must terminate  
12       any use of United States Armed Forces within 60  
13       days of providing initial notification to Congress, un-  
14       less Congress has “declared war or has enacted a  
15       specific authorization for such use of United States  
16       Armed Forces,” has “extended by law such 60-day  
17       period,” or “is physically unable to meet as a result  
18       of an armed attack upon the United States,” none  
19       of which has occurred with respect to the current  
20       hostilities in and against Iran.

21          (10) The 60-day period following the Presi-  
22       dent’s notification to Congress on March 2, 2026,  
23       ends on May 1, 2026.

24          (11) Under the War Powers Resolution, the  
25       President may extend the presence of the Armed

1 Forces for “not more than an additional 30 days if  
2 the President determines and certifies to the Con-  
3 gress in writing that unavoidable military necessity  
4 respecting the safety of United States Armed Forces  
5 requires the continued use of such armed forces in  
6 the course of bringing about a prompt removal of  
7 such forces”.

8 (12) The purpose of the War Powers Resolu-  
9 tion, as stated in section 2(a) of such resolution (50  
10 U.S.C. 1541(a)), is to “insure that the collective  
11 judgment of both the Congress and the President  
12 will apply to the introduction of United States  
13 Armed Forces into hostilities”.

14 (13) Section 1013 of the Department of State  
15 Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 (50  
16 U.S.C. 1546a) provides that any joint resolution or  
17 bill requiring the removal of United States Armed  
18 Forces engaged in hostilities without a declaration of  
19 war or specific statutory authorization shall be con-  
20 sidered in accordance with the expedited procedures  
21 under section 601(b) of the International Security  
22 and Arms Export Control Act of 1976 (Public Law  
23 94–329).

1 **SEC. 2. REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES**  
2 **FROM HOSTILITIES WITHIN OR AGAINST THE**  
3 **ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF 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 reso-  
14 lution 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 and international  
20 organizations as appropriate, related to threats from  
21 Iran or its proxies;

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

1                   (A) in taking defensive measures to protect  
2                   their territory from retaliatory attacks by Iran  
3                   or its proxies; or

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

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

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