

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. J. RES. 116

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

MARCH 5, 2026

Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. Kaine) 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.

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 adminis-  
8 tration launched Operation Epic Fury, introducing  
9 the United States military into hostilities as part of  
10 an ongoing and wide-reaching military campaign  
11 against the Government of Iran.

12 (5) The Trump administration has repeatedly  
13 referred to this operation as a “war”, including  
14 President Trump’s statement on February 28, 2026,  
15 that the United States has entered into “a war with  
16 Iran that we did not want but that we are going to  
17 win very quickly,” and Secretary of Defense  
18 Hegseth’s statement on March 4, 2026, that “the  
19 terms of this war will be set by us at every step”.

20 (6) According to a statement by United States  
21 Central Command (CENTCOM) Commander Admi-  
22 ral Brad Cooper on March 3, 2026, more than  
23 50,000 members of the United States Armed Forces  
24 have participated in the unprecedented operation.

1           (7) Six members of the United States Armed  
2 Forces have been killed as part of Operation Epic  
3 Fury, and President Trump has suggested there will  
4 likely be additional American lives lost, stating on  
5 March 2, 2026, “We pray for the full recovery of the  
6 wounded and send our immense love and eternal  
7 gratitude to the families of the fallen. And, sadly,  
8 there will likely be more before it ends. That’s the  
9 way it is. Likely be more.”.

10           (8) The Trump administration has offered in-  
11 consistent timelines for United States military oper-  
12 ations against Iran, including President Trump’s  
13 statement on March 1, 2026, that “we intended four  
14 to five weeks,” President Trump’s statement on  
15 March 2, 2026, that “whatever the time is, it’s okay,  
16 whatever it takes,” Secretary Hegseth’s statement  
17 that the duration could be “four weeks, two weeks,  
18 six weeks,” and President Trump’s message to Con-  
19 gress that “it is not possible at this time to know  
20 the full scope and duration of military operations  
21 that may be necessary”.

22           (9) United States Central Command  
23 (CENTCOM) has requested additional officers to  
24 support operations for at least 100 days and likely  
25 through September.

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

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

16 **SEC. 2. REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES**  
17                                   **FROM HOSTILITIES WITHIN OR AGAINST**  
18                                   **IRAN.**

19          (a) REMOVAL.—Pursuant to section 1013 of the De-  
20          partment of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1984  
21          and 1985 (50 U.S.C. 1546a), and in accordance with sec-  
22          tion 601(b) of the International Security Assistance and  
23          Arms Export Control Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–329),  
24          Congress hereby directs the President to remove the  
25          United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or

1 against Iran, unless explicitly authorized by a declaration  
2 of war or a specific authorization for use of military force.

3 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
4 tion may be construed to prevent the United States  
5 from—

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

8 (2) collecting, analyzing, or sharing intelligence,  
9 including with partner countries who have been at-  
10 tacked by Iran since February 28, 2026, and other  
11 nations and international organizations as appro-  
12 priate, related to defense from threats from Iran or  
13 its proxies; or

14 (3) assisting partner countries who have been  
15 attacked by Iran since February 28, 2026, and other  
16 nations—

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

19 (B) by providing defensive materiel sup-  
20 port for such defensive measures.

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