

rush to war, spending billions of taxpayer dollars, costing American lives and costing our constitutional fidelity.

It has been 2 weeks since we had a War Powers Resolution brought up by my colleague TIM KAINE. In 2 weeks, this war has expanded. In 2 weeks, more Americans have died. In 2 weeks, more countries have been attacked.

This is not just Iran being hit. It is now 11 countries have been attacked, and even some of our European allies have had their bases in the region attacked.

It has been 2 weeks, and we have seen the mistakes of war, like a school of girls being targeted and attacked, and the administration not feeling that they have to stand before Congress and be accountable for that; 2 weeks, and we have seen more soldiers perish; 2 weeks, and we now have a report that it is over 200 that have visible injuries and perhaps even more invisible injuries.

Today, in the Capitol, we had veterans come, veterans of foreign wars, veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq, veterans who came to this building today to remind people in the Capitol the true costs of war.

We cannot question their bravery. We cannot question their sacrifice. And they stood with us today to make the simple point: When will Congress do its job?

There is something inexcusable about people who will stand in this Chamber and swear an oath not to a President, swear an oath not to an authoritarian leader, swear an oath not to a political party; they swore an oath, all 100 of us, to the Constitution of the United States of America.

And if there is anything that is plain in that Constitution, it is that a President does not have the power to unilaterally bring a nation and its treasure—to bring a nation and its men and women into conflict without a say of Congress.

This is not a partisan issue. This is not a left or right issue. It is a right or wrong. Do you stand with the Constitution of the United States of America or do you stand with what our Founders rejected; that we should be a nation where all power, especially the power that sends our soldiers into making the ultimate sacrifice—do we stand with the ideal that that lies with the President and not with this body?

And so I am telling you right now, those who feel that this vote is an inconvenience to them, those that feel offended that we are having an hour—an hour—debate of what we are entitled to when we bring up a War Powers Resolution, I say to those who feel angry—how dare we try to force the Senate to try to focus on this war—I say to you: I don't care about your objection.

We have privileges as Senators, and I refuse to let business as usual go on in this body. I and my colleagues will bring up these resolutions again and again and again as more and more

Americans on both sides of the aisle see this war for what it is: one President's decision costing all Americans, costing us at our homes, around our kitchen tables, costing our budgets, and then costing the greatest cost of all, the lives of our men and women in service.

In a few moments, we will take a vote. I know what the outcome of that vote will be. But my dear friend TIM KAINE, who has brought these War Powers Resolutions—not just about this war, not just about our war that we declared with Venezuela or bombing ships in the Atlantic—he has called this question before, and he quoted a great faith leader. The outcome of this vote, I know what it will be, but he quoted that faith leader in saying simply: I was not called to be successful. I was called to be faithful.

That is the real issue before us right now. Are we faithful to the oath that we swore to uphold the Constitution? Are we faithful to the most sacrosanct ideals of this Republic? Are we faithful to the service men and women who also swore an oath to this Constitution and make greater sacrifices than any of the hundred of us are making today? Are we faithful to the ideals that this is not a monarchy, that we do not have a King, that we are a democratic Republic with a Constitution and no one is above the law.

This President cannot take us to war without coming through this body. He is not able to do that unless this body supplicates itself before that man and surrenders its responsibilities.

Today, I say no.

Today, we will vote, and whatever the outcome of that vote, we will come back here, again and again, with a simple demand that the world's most deliberative body must deliberate; that the branch of government that was supposed to hold the Executive to account demands some accountability; that the checks and balances designed by our Founders should operate, and we should check and balance his power; that what the American people want and what the American people deserve is to have a Congress that functions, and a President that seems so cocky and confident and is taking us to war should have to come before this body; that the members of his Cabinet sit here and justify both the provocation of why we went to war and what is the endgame—because it is clear to me now that we have seen this from Libya to Afghanistan, President after President taking us to war in the Middle East and leaving chaos, instability, and terrorism and subjugation behind.

This is a moral test for this body. It is not just a vote. This is a moral moment. Where do you stand? It is not whether you stand left or stand right, stand Republican or stand Democrat. The question is, Do you stand with the Constitution that you swore an oath to uphold?

This vote may fail, but this failure is not final because even after this vote,

there are many in this body that will continue to fight to uphold the Constitution and make the U.S. Senate do its job.

Business as usual is unacceptable. This fight will continue.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator BOOKER for leading this important measure.

Thirteen U.S. servicemembers have been killed since the start of the Iran war. Another 200 have been injured. Thousands more across the Middle East have been killed or injured. We pray for all those killed and hurt. We pray for their families.

Meanwhile, the Strait of Hormuz traffic has crawled to a halt. The price of Brent crude has risen to \$110 a barrel. Americans are now paying an average of \$3.80 or more at the pump. And when Donald Trump was asked last week if we were toward the beginning of this war or toward the end, he said both. He said both.

Enough is enough. Trump's war in Iran is turning into a disaster, and there is no end in sight. We do not know Trump's goals. We do not know Trump's timeline. We do not know what victory even looks like in his eyes. Enough is enough.

A few weeks ago, Senator KAINE, Senator SCHIFF, Senator PAUL, and I brought a simple resolution to the floor affirming that Donald Trump cannot send our servicemembers into war without coming to Congress first. Republicans voted no.

Today, we are pushing another War Powers Resolution led by Senator BOOKER, and I want to thank him for his leadership.

To my Republican colleagues, the American people are watching. They oppose this war. They expect us to do our jobs.

No more senseless wars in the Middle East, no more gas prices shooting through the roof, no more U.S. servicemembers fighting and dying in endless wars—enough is enough. The Senate will put a stop to it tonight.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

DIRECTING THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES WITHIN OR AGAINST THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS—Motion to Discharge

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, in an effort to uphold the Constitution and

pursuant to section 601(b) of the International Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Act, I move to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations from further consideration of S.J. Res. 118, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized, as is by the Constitution necessary, by Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to discharge from the Committee on Foreign Relations, S.J. Res. 118, a 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.

VOTE ON MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. BOOKER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

Is there further debate on the motion?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge S.J. Res. 118.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 58 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kim	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	King	Schumer
Booker	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Lujan	Slotkin
Coons	Markey	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warnock
Galleo	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Paul	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Reed	

NAYS—53

Banks	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Moreno
Blackburn	Grassley	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Murkowski
Britt	Hawley	Ricketts
Budd	Hoeben	Risch
Capito	Husted	Rounds
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tillis
Curtis	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	McCormick	Young
Fetterman	Moody	

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Utah.

SAFEGUARD AMERICAN VOTER ELIGIBILITY ACT

S. 1383

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, here we find ourselves today, a little over 24 hours after we began consideration of the SAVE America Act, having passed the motion to proceed to that measure yesterday afternoon.

It is important to me. I think it is important to the American people, who overwhelmingly support this measure and the policy changes it would bring about when enacted into law, that we keep our running tally of the arguments being raised against it. The arguments for and against it are and properly should be monitored by the American people so that they can see what is going on.

This does, after all, impact them, and it impacts them in a way that goes beyond the run-of-the-mill piece of legislation.

Everything we do potentially affects the American people one way or another, some things more than others. A simple sense of the Senate resolution declaring “National Sofa Care Week” might impact them less than something like raising taxes, for example.

This one is, in some ways, upstream from all of those because the SAVE America Act deals with something very fundamental. It deals with the way that the citizens are able to interact with and influence their own government. Really, it is the fundamental premise of the founding of our Nation and the creation of our Republic.

In many respects, the Declaration of Independence, whose birthday we are about to celebrate this year—we are nearly 250 years since we became our own country, since we declared independence. In the Declaration of Independence, in addition to kicking off the creation of the greatest civilization that human history has ever recorded, it also set out a vision for the type of Nation we aspire to become and, in fact, have become. It established a few basic principles. In many respects, the Declaration of Independence, while not quoted as often, while not celebrated as much, and while it is maybe a step or two detached from the day-to-day operation of the government—in some respects, the Declaration of Independence is itself the picture that we look at when we assess who we are as a country. The Constitution is the frame—the structure that holds it in place, that sets the boundaries—but the Declaration provides the picture.

The Declaration acknowledges the existence of popular sovereignty. It acknowledges the natural fundamental rights that God and nature’s God lay before us; that acknowledges the fun-

damental truths about who we are and what government is in relation to us; that we have these self-evident truths, these God-given rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; the understanding that government exists for the well-being of human beings and not the other way around; and that whenever government becomes destructive of those same ends—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, for example—it is the right, it is the duty, it is the obligation to alter or abolish that government and to establish something that will secure their freedoms.

Some 11 years after that document was penned, after several years, we won the war against what was then the world’s last-standing great superpower in a conflict that could be analogized to David and Goliath. We were not Goliath. We were David—we were the underdog of underdogs—and, somehow, we managed to win that war. We established a form of government, after winning that war, under the Articles of Confederation.

Instinctively, intuitively, we adopted a form of national government that was weak, that was meek, that was mild—in part because we had just come off of an experience with our mother country where we saw that the risk of tyranny was greater at the national level than it was at the local level. Meanwhile, during our Colonial period prior to the Revolution, we had had a taste of local self-rule in a way that was somewhat different than local government had been prior to that time back in the mother country. Given how far we were removed geographically, physically, in miles from the mother country, that by itself offered a degree of independence from our London-based government, and we became accustomed to it.

The amount of muscle flexed by the mother country would wax and wane over time depending on what was happening back in London, throughout the British Isles, and throughout the British Empire during periods where there were a lot of debts to pay off often from wars waged on multiple continents. There were times when our British overseers became more aggressive in the way they regulated us, in the way especially that they collected taxes from us, and they became more of a brooding omnipresence during those seasons. It was during one of those seasons in which the American people had decided that they had had enough and that it was time to break our ties with the mother country and become our own country.

So years passed. We won the war against all odds, against all expectations. We set up the Articles of Confederation instinctively, reflexively, creating a fairly weak form of national government, but it was so weak that it couldn’t perform the basic functions that we needed a national government to perform, and it was that set of circumstances that led the individuals who would write the Constitution to try to come together.