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(Original Signature of Member)

116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

**H. J. RES.** \_\_\_\_\_

Requiring congressional approval prior to engaging in hostilities within the  
sovereign country of Iran.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MOULTON introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to  
the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JOINT RESOLUTION**

Requiring congressional approval prior to engaging in  
hostilities within the sovereign Islamic Republic of Iran.

*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 “Constitu-*  
*5 tional Authorities Resolution”.*

**6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

*7 Congress finds the following—*

1           (1) Article I, section 8, of the Constitution of  
2           the United States grants Congress the sole power to  
3           declare war.

4           (2) President George Washington, in a letter to  
5           William Moultrie dated August 28, 1793, wrote that  
6           “[t]he constitution vests the power of declaring war  
7           in Congress; therefore no offensive expedition of im-  
8           portance can be undertaken until after they shall  
9           have deliberated upon the subject and authorized  
10          such a measure”.

11          (3) Alexander Hamilton wrote in Examination  
12          Number 1 of the Hamilton Papers, dated December  
13          17, 1801, that “[t]he Congress shall have the  
14          power to declare war”; the plain meaning of which is,  
15          that it is the peculiar and exclusive duty of Con-  
16          gress, when the nation is at peace, to change that  
17          state into a state of war”.

18          (4) Iran is the leading state sponsor of ter-  
19          rorism in the Middle East and a pernicious trouble-  
20          maker in Iraq and Afghanistan.

21          (5) Missile tests by Iran have led to escalating  
22          tensions with Israel, Saudi Arabia, the United  
23          States, and the United Nations.

24          (6) Iran has threatened to shutdown crucial  
25          maritime lines of communication, putting United

1 States and international naval assets, as well as  
2 global energy assets, at risk.

3 (7) Since 1979, Iran has been ruled by Islamic  
4 theocrats who use the Quran to justify the suppres-  
5 sion of domestic political freedom and the denial of  
6 civil and human rights.

7 (8) A war with Iran would also endanger  
8 United States assets, personnel, and foreign policy  
9 objectives throughout the region, including in Iraq,  
10 Afghanistan, and Israel.

11 (9) On June 22, 2018, President Trump  
12 tweeted that Iran “[w]ill suffer consequences the  
13 likes of which few throughout history have ever suf-  
14 fered before”.

15 (10) A May 5, 2019, statement from National  
16 Security Advisor Ambassador John Bolton said that  
17 any attack on America or its allies, by Iran or its  
18 proxies, “will be met with unrelenting force”.

19 (11) Loose talk of war and belligerent rhetoric  
20 increases the risk of miscalculation by either side  
21 and unsettles United States allies.

**1 SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN**  
**2 CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL PRIOR TO EN-**  
**3 GAGING IN HOSTILITIES WITHIN THE IS-**  
**4 LAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN.**

5 It is the sense of Congress that specific congressional  
6 approval is required, and has not been provided as of the  
7 date of the enactment of this joint resolution, to authorize  
8 the United States Armed Forces to engage in hostilities  
9 within the sovereign Islamic Republic of Iran.

**10 SEC. 4. PRIOR NOTICE REQUIREMENT BEFORE ENTRY INTO**  
**11 HOSTILITIES WITHIN IRAN.**

12 Prior to the introduction of the Armed Forces into  
13 the sovereign Islamic Republic of Iran, the President shall  
submit  
14 to Congress a report, in classified or unclassified form,  
15 that includes—

16 (1) the circumstances necessitating the intro-  
17 duction of the Armed Forces;

18 (2) the constitutional and legislative authority  
19 under which such introduction took place; and

20 (3) the estimated scope and duration of the  
21 hostilities or involvement.