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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3303

July 13, 2016

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker,

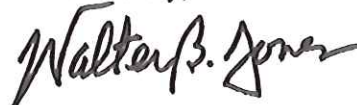
As the Obama administration continues American involvement in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria, I write to you for the fourth time to urge you to bring up an Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) for a debate and vote when the House of Representatives reconvenes in September.

Sadly, I have yet to receive a response from you to any of my 3 previous letters about an AUMF. One of the most important duties of Congress is to debate and vote on whether to send Americans into battle. The Constitution is crystal clear: it is the duty of Congress to publicly debate and vote on whether to send our brave servicemen and women into harm's way. With the news that President Obama will keep 8,400 troops in Afghanistan through the rest of his term in office and increase the number of troops in Iraq as of today, it is a gross violation of our oath of office to keep ignoring perpetual war by executive fiat.

Our wars in the Middle East have cost thousands of American lives and billions of taxpayer dollars with no end in sight. Even the former President of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, has recently said "I don't think military means will bring us peace... We did it for the last 14 years and it didn't bring us that, so how do we know military action will bring us that now?" I agree. What we have been doing is not working, and it's time for Congress to determine what the best strategy is in the Middle East going forward.

Again, I ask that you schedule a debate and a vote on an AUMF when the House reconvenes in September on behalf of the members who have previously joined me in writing to you. I appreciate your consideration of this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

*Mr. Speaker,
I look forward
to your response -*