

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

June 14, 2016

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan,

As American involvement in Syria and Iraq against Islamic State forces continues to escalate, we write you again to strongly urge the House to immediately schedule a debate on an Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF).

This is not the first time that we have written to you to ask for Congress to meet its constitutional responsibility. As many of us wrote to you last year in a letter signed by 35 bipartisan House members, "We do believe the Congress can no longer ask our brave service men and women to continue to serve in harm's way while we fail in carrying out our constitutional responsibility in the area of war and peace." Sadly, we have yet to receive a response from your office.

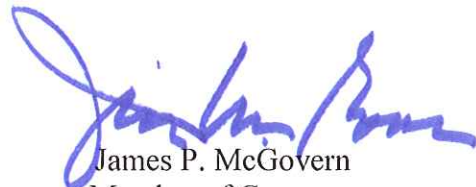
Among the most important duties of Congress is that of debating and voting on whether to send Americans into battle. The Constitution is crystal clear: it is the duty of Congress to publicly debate and hold a vote on this serious issue. As you well know, the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs that President Obama is operating under do not authorize war against the Islamic State. Absent congressional authorization, President Obama does not possess the constitutional authority to wage war against the Islamic State. With the Constitution being so clear on issues of war, when can House members expect the body to begin consideration of an AUMF? It would continue to be a gross violation of our oath of office to ignore this matter: members are being denied their constitutional duty.

Again, we ask that the House immediately schedule a debate on an AUMF. We appreciate your consideration of this matter and look forward to your response within four weeks.

Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Thomas Massie  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress