

Date: _____, 2014

Dear

I am writing to urge you to put an end to the 13 years of perpetual war we've been engaged in since September 2001. Please repeal the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) from September, 2001 and the AUMF about Iraq from October, 2002, and resist efforts to pass any new AUMF regarding the Islamic State, Iraq or Syria, especially one that enables warfare in a country which has not attacked the US or which does not say how a conflict will end.

By May of this year, the 2001 AUMF had, been "used by Presidents Bush and Obama at least 30 times to justify their activities, from overseas wars, to detentions without due process, to warrantless wiretapping at home [including] military operations in at least ten countries."*

The Iraq AUMF and UN Resolutions it refers to address Saddam Hussein's government, Kuwait, and non-existent Weapons of Mass Destruction. That AUMF is no longer valid and must be repealed.

President Obama asked for these AUMFs to be repealed, and a vote in May 2014 to sunset the 2001 Authorization at the end of the year failed by just 42 votes.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have generally been considered failures, leaving both countries in shambles and leading to more violent attacks on civilians. Warfare is not the answer. US drone strikes only lead to the recruitment of more anti-US militants.

Ending the flow of arms, stepping up diplomatic efforts, and bringing perpetrators to justice in a courtroom sets a tone showing ours is a country of laws, not assassinations and warfare. It's not a choice between dropping bombs and "doing nothing."

Therefore, any efforts to create a new AUMF authorizing the President's ongoing airstrikes in Iraq (which passed the 60 days provided in the War Powers Resolution on October 7**) should not be approved, especially one that approves of the airstrikes in Syria. Congress must not give up its Constitutional authority to declare war.

Thank you,

_____ (signature)

_____ (printed name)

_____ (address)

_____ (city, state, zip)

*"The 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force: Background in Brief," Congressional Research Service. <https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/aumf-071013.pdf> via Friends Committee on National Legislation

**Ironically, October 7 also marked 13 years since the US invasion of Afghanistan