



Action Toolkit: REPEAL THE 2002 AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE (AUMF) #IraqAUMF

We have an opportunity to make military families safer by repealing an outdated and irrelevant Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF). The 2002 Iraq AUMF is dangerous and allows a president to take military action without consulting Congress.

Earlier this year - and more than 20 years after the invasion of Iraq - the Senate voted to repeal the #IraqAUMF. Now we need the House to pass the bill and send it to the President's desk. **We are mobilizing to urge members of the House of Representatives to support and co-sponsor H.R. 932, a bill to repeal the Iraq war authorizations.** Congress must reclaim its Constitutional war powers, and it starts by repealing the 2002 Iraq AUMF.

Use this Action Toolkit to call for the repeal of the 2002 AUMF and officially end the U.S. war against the Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq.

Toolkit Contents

- Learn: Overview of the 2002 AUMF
- Take Action: Send a Letter to Your Member of Congress
- Share: Social Media Toolkit

LEARN: OVERVIEW OF 2002 AUMF

What are AUMFs and how are they different from a Declaration of War?

AUMFs are legislative policies that authorize a limited use of force. Declarations of War ("total war") provide the President with an entire and unqualified use of the US military (the last Dec of War was passed in 1942). Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq have all been AUMFs.

The 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) was passed by Congress to authorize military force against Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq.



It states: "The President is authorized to use Armed Forces of the United States as he determines to be necessary and appropriate in order to – defend the national security of the United States against continuing threat posed by Iraq; and enforce all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq."

Since its passage 20 years ago, Saddam Hussein was convicted and executed, the Iraq War was declared over and U.S. troops withdrew from the country. There is no justification for it remaining in effect.

How is the 2002 Iraq AUMF being used now?

Since the Iraq war was declared over in 2011, the Iraq AUMF has never been cited as the sole authority for any US military operations.

In 2014, the Iraq AUMF was cited by the Obama Administration as a "*alternative statutory basis*" to the 2001 AUMF for its campaign against ISIS in Iraq.

In January 2020, President Trump claimed that the 2002 AUMF authorized the assassination of Iranian general Qassem Soleimani. This claim was rejected by legal scholars. Congress passed the bipartisan S.J Res 68 resolution that directed President Trump to terminate the use of force against Iran. President Trump then vetoed the resolution.

Repealing the 2002 Iraq AUMF is a common-sense step with broad bipartisan support. It's critical that our leaders in Congress finally get this done and reclaim their Constitutional war powers.

In April of 2023, an overwhelming bipartisan majority of the Senate voted 66-30 passed an Iraq war authorization repeal bill. H.R. 932, the House version of the bill, currently has 52 co-sponsors - 26 Democrats and 26 Republicans. We strongly urge Representatives to support and co-sponsor this important legislation!

SFI's 2002 AUMF Resources

- [What to Know About the 2002 Iraq AUMF on Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)
- [War Powers 101: Understanding AUMFs](#)
- [Joint OpEd: Honor veterans: Repeal the 2002 Iraq AUMF](#)
- [Summary of House Call to Action on Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)



TAKE ACTION: Tell Your Rep to Co-Sponsor 2002 War Authorization Repeal

Join us and [send a letter to your Representative](#) urging them to support Iraq War authorization repeal and co-sponsor H.R. 932. We have a letter campaign that makes it simple to contact your Representative - it only takes a few clicks! [Click here to send a letter now.](#)

Here's the text of the letter. Please make changes and add personalization!

I urge you to support H.R.932 and repeal the 2002 Iraq AUMF. The effects of war and conflict directly impact military families like mine in a way that the majority of the public is isolated from, and this bill would go a long way toward keeping us safer.

The 2002 AUMF is outdated and irrelevant; however, it is not harmless. On the contrary, leaving this law on the books puts current and future military families at risk of future presidents taking reckless, unilateral military action. If our community is going to be called into another war, we deserve rigorous and transparent public debate; this law undermines that value.

Please show your support and co-sponsor H.R. 932! Thank you for your consideration.

SHARE: SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Tips for Social Media Posts

- Posts are most effective if they sound like you, so don't hesitate to personalize or put into your voice.
- Use a photo or graphic to gain attention. [Click here to download social media graphics.](#)
- Use the hashtag #IraqAUMF.
- Link to SFI's Repeal 2002 Iraq AUMF Post:

If you prefer, you can share SFI's social media posts..

- [Secure Families Initiative on Facebook](#)
- [@secure_families on Instagram](#)
- [@secure_families on Twitter](#)



Sample Tweets

As a military spouse and together with @secure_families, I urge Congress to reclaim its constitutional war powers and repeal the #IraqAUMF.
bit.ly/CoSponsorAUMFRepeal

It's time for Congress to reclaim its Constitutional war powers, Repeal #IraqAUMF
bit.ly/CoSponsorAUMFRepeal

20 years ago Congress authorized the invasion of Iraq. It is time for Congress to reclaim their war powers. Repeal #IraqAUMF. bit.ly/CoSponsorAUMFRepeal

.@SpeakerMcCarthy, it is time to return war powers to Congress. Bring the #IraqAUMF Repeal to a vote. bit.ly/McCarthyAUMFRepeal

Sample Facebook Post

The #IraqAUMF is 20 years old. It is outdated, irrelevant, irresponsible and dangerous. It is time for Congress to reassert its constitutional war powers and repeal the Iraq War Authorization. bit.ly/CoSponsorAUMFRepeal

Today I am taking action to urge my Representative to support H.R. 932 and repeal the outdated and irrelevant Iraq war authorization. Join me: bit.ly/CoSponsorAUMFRepeal