

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4208

To authorize the use of the United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 10, 2015

Mr. RIGELL (for himself and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the use of the United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Authority for the Use
5 of Military Force Against the Islamic State of Iraq and
6 the Levant Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress makes the following findings:

9 (1) The terrorist organization that has referred
10 to itself as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

1 and various other names (in this resolution referred
2 to as “ISIL”) poses a grave threat to the people and
3 territorial integrity of Iraq and Syria, regional sta-
4 bility, and the national security interests of the
5 United States and its allies and partners.

6 (2) ISIL holds significant territory in Iraq and
7 Syria and has stated its intention to seize more ter-
8 ritory and demonstrated the capability to do so.

9 (3) ISIL leaders have stated that they intend to
10 conduct terrorist attacks internationally, including
11 against the United States, its citizens, and interests.

12 (4) ISIL has committed despicable acts of vio-
13 lence and mass executions against Muslims, regard-
14 less of sect, who do not subscribe to ISIL’s de-
15 praved, violent, and oppressive ideology.

16 (5) ISIL has threatened genocide and com-
17 mitted vicious acts of violence against religious and
18 ethnic minority groups, including Iraqi Christian,
19 Yezidi, and Turkmen populations.

20 (6) ISIL has targeted innocent women and girls
21 with horrific acts of violence, including abduction,
22 enslavement, torture, rape, and forced marriage.

23 (7) ISIL is responsible for the deaths of inno-
24 cent United States citizens, including James Foley,

1 Steven Sotloff, Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig, and
2 Kayla Mueller.

3 (8) The United States is working with regional
4 and global allies and partners to degrade and defeat
5 ISIL, to cut off its funding, to stop the flow of for-
6 eign fighters to its ranks, and to support local com-
7 munities as they reject ISIL.

8 (9) The announcement of the anti-ISIL Coali-
9 tion on September 5, 2014, during the NATO Sum-
10 mit in Wales, stated that ISIL poses a serious
11 threat and should be countered by a broad inter-
12 national coalition.

13 (10) The United States calls on its allies and
14 partners, particularly in the Middle East and North
15 Africa, to join the anti-ISIL Coalition and defeat
16 this terrorist threat.

17 (11) President Barack Obama, United States
18 military leaders, and United States allies in the re-
19 gion have made clear that it is more effective to use
20 the unique capabilities of the United States Govern-
21 ment to support regional partners instead of large-
22 scale deployments of United States ground forces in
23 this mission.

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF UNITED STATES**
2 **ARMED FORCES.**

3 (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The President is authorized to
4 use the Armed Forces of the United States as the Presi-
5 dent determines necessary and appropriate against ISIL
6 or associated persons or forces as defined in section 6.

7 (b) **WAR POWERS RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS.**—

8 (1) **SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION.**—
9 Consistent with section 8(a)(1) of the War Powers
10 Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1547(a)(1)), Congress de-
11 clares that this section is intended to constitute spe-
12 cific statutory authorization within the meaning of
13 section 5(b) of the War Powers Resolution (50
14 U.S.C. 1544(b)).

15 (2) **APPLICABILITY OF OTHER REQUIRE-**
16 **MENTS.**—Nothing in this Act supersedes any re-
17 quirements of the War Powers Resolution (50
18 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

19 (c) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this authorization is
20 to protect the lives of United States citizens and to provide
21 military support to regional partners in their battle to de-
22 feat ISIL. The use of significant United States ground
23 troops in combat against ISIL, except to protect the lives
24 of United States citizens from imminent threat, is not con-
25 sistent with such purpose.

1 **SEC. 4. DURATION OF AUTHORIZATION.**

2 The authorization for the use of military force under
3 this Act shall terminate three years after the date of the
4 enactment of this Act, unless reauthorized.

5 **SEC. 5. REPORTS.**

6 The President shall report to Congress at least once
7 every six months on specific actions taken pursuant to this
8 authorization.

9 **SEC. 6. ASSOCIATED PERSONS OR FORCES DEFINED.**

10 In this Act, the term “associated persons or
11 forces”—

12 (1) means individuals and organizations fight-
13 ing for, on behalf of, or alongside ISIL or any close-
14 ly related successor entity in hostilities against the
15 United States or its coalition partners; and

16 (2) refers to any individual or organization that
17 presents a direct threat to members of the United
18 States Armed Forces, coalition partner forces, or
19 forces trained by the coalition, in their fight against
20 ISIL.

21 **SEC. 7. REPEAL OF AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY**
22 **FORCE AGAINST IRAQ.**

23 The Authorization for Use of Military Force Against
24 Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107–243; 116 Stat.
25 1498; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) is hereby repealed.

1 **SEC. 8. SOLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR MILITARY AC-**
2 **TION AGAINST ISIL.**

3 This authorization shall constitute the sole statutory
4 authority for United States military action against the Is-
5 lamic State of Iraq and the Levant and associated persons
6 or forces, and supersedes any prior authorization for the
7 use of military force involving action against ISIL.

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