

today, with lifesaving updates that reflect the voices of victims and survivors and the input of experts.

With this bill, we are empowering law enforcement and making new investments in prevention. We are improving lifesaving services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We are supporting survivors with protections against discrimination in the workplace and supporting their financial security.

We are closing dangerous loopholes in our laws that right now allow those who have been convicted of stalking or dating violence to obtain firearms. These are commonsense reforms that will save lives and that no one should object to.

We are strengthening protections for Native American women because every woman everywhere has the right to live free from abuse. We thank the Indian Country and the Native American women for their input on this. And aren't we blessed now to have for the first time in American history, two Native American women serving in the Congress of the United States: Congresswoman SHARICE DAVIDS from Kansas, and Congresswoman DEB HAALAND from New Mexico, and they have already made their presence felt.

This bill has historically been bipartisan. We urge all Members to join us in a strong bipartisan vote for this bill, which honors our oath, upholds our values, and saves lives. Again, I urge a "yes" vote.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Chairwoman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Madam Chairwoman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I rise in support of the gentlewoman's amendment. Representative TORRES SMALL's amendment makes it clear that nothing in this bill impacts or changes any obligations or requirements to comply with our immigration laws.

This amendment alleviates any potential concern or confusion about the intent of this legislation. It makes clear that the bill does not change any immigration law, nor does it affect any of the immigration obligations and requirements under current law. It is that simple, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Chair, I thank the chairman; the authors of this bill, Representative BASS and Representative FITZPATRICK; and the tireless advocates who have worked to bring this bill to the floor today for the safety and justice of all survivors of violence and abuse.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, please support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico will be postponed.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Chair, I move that the committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to. Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico) having assumed the chair, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

□ 0945

DIRECTING THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 274, I call up the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 7) to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN). Pursuant to House Resolution 274, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 7

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Congress has the sole power to declare war under article I, section 8, clause 11 of the United States Constitution.

(2) Congress has not declared war with respect to, or provided a specific statutory authorization for, the conflict between military forces led by Saudi Arabia, including forces from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal, and Sudan (the Saudi-led coalition), against the Houthis, also known as Ansar Allah, in the Republic of Yemen.

(3) Since March 2015, members of the United States Armed Forces have been introduced into hostilities between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis, including providing to the Saudi-led coalition aerial targeting assistance, intelligence sharing, and mid-flight aerial refueling.

(4) The United States has established a Joint Combined Planning Cell with Saudi Arabia, in which members of the United States Armed Forces assist in aerial targeting and help to coordinate military and intelligence activities.

(5) In December 2017, Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis stated, "We have gone in to be very—to be helpful where we can in identifying how you do target analysis and how you make certain you hit the right thing."

(6) The conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis constitutes, within the meaning of section 4(a) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1543(a)), either hostilities or a situation where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances into which United States Armed Forces have been introduced.

(7) Section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(c)) states that "at any time that United States Armed Forces are engaged in hostilities outside the territory of the United States, its possessions and territories without a declaration of war or specific statutory authorization, such forces shall be removed by the President if the Congress so directs".

(8) Section 8(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1547(c)) defines the introduction of United States Armed Forces to include "the assignment of members of such armed forces to command, coordinate, participate in the movement of, or accompany the regular or irregular military forces of any foreign country or government when such military forces are engaged, or there exists an imminent threat that such forces will become engaged, in hostilities," and activities that the United States is conducting in support of the Saudi-led coalition, including aerial refueling and targeting assistance, fall within this definition.

(9) Section 1013 of the Department of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 (50 U.S.C. 1546a) provides that any joint resolution or bill to require the removal of United States Armed Forces engaged in hostilities without a declaration of war or specific statutory authorization shall be considered in accordance with the expedited procedures of section 601(b) of the International Security and Arms Export Control Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-329; 90 Stat. 765).

(10) No specific statutory authorization for the use of United States Armed Forces with respect to the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis in Yemen has been enacted, and no provision of law explicitly authorizes the provision of targeting assistance or of midair refueling services to warplanes of Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates that are engaged in such conflict.

SEC. 2. REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS.

Pursuant to section 1013 of the Department of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 (50 U.S.C. 1546a) and in accordance with the provisions of section 601(b) of the International Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-329; 90 Stat. 765), Congress hereby directs the President to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in or affecting the Republic of Yemen, except United States Armed Forces engaged in operations directed at al Qaeda or associated forces, by not later than the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution (unless the President requests and Congress authorizes a later date), and unless and until a declaration of war or specific authorization for such use of United States Armed Forces has been enacted. For purposes of this resolution, in this section, the term "hostilities" includes in-flight refueling of non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the ongoing civil war in Yemen.

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING CONTINUED MILITARY OPERATIONS AND COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL.

Nothing in this joint resolution shall be construed to influence or disrupt any military operations and cooperation with Israel.

SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING INTELLIGENCE SHARING.

Nothing in this joint resolution may be construed to influence or disrupt any intelligence, counterintelligence, or investigative activities relating to threats in or emanating from Yemen conducted by, or in conjunction with, the United States Government involving—

- (1) the collection of intelligence;
- (2) the analysis of intelligence; or
- (3) the sharing of intelligence between the United States and any coalition partner if the President determines such sharing is appropriate and in the national security interests of the United States.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON RISKS POSED BY CEASING SAUDI ARABIA SUPPORT OPERATIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, the President shall submit to Congress a report assessing the risks posed to United States citizens and the civilian population of Saudi Arabia and the risk of regional humanitarian crises if the United States were to cease support operations with respect to the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis in Yemen.

SEC. 6. REPORT ON INCREASED RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS TO UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES ABROAD, ALLIES, AND THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES IF SAUDI ARABIA CEASES YEMEN-RELATED INTELLIGENCE SHARING WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, the President shall submit to Congress a report assessing the increased risk of terrorist attacks on United States Armed Forces abroad, allies, and to the continental United States if the Government of Saudi Arabia were to cease Yemen-related intelligence sharing with the United States.

SEC. 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING NO AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE.

Consistent with section 8(a)(1) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1547(a)(1)), nothing in this joint resolution may be construed as authorizing the use of military force.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on S.J. Res. 7.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, it is a little surprising that we find ourselves back on the floor debating this resolution. After all, it has already passed both Chambers with bipartisan support. It has passed the Senate twice.

Opponents of this measure have used every trick in the book to slow it down, to try and derail it, but we have reached the last page in that book, and I am confident that after we vote today, this resolution will head to the President's desk, and the President will have to face the reality that Congress is no longer going to ignore its constitutional obligations when it comes to foreign policy and when it comes to determining when and where our military is engaged in hostilities.

We are taking up this resolution because we see a policy from this administration that has strayed from our values and a crisis that demands moral leadership, which is the war in Yemen.

I fully understand America's security concerns in Yemen. I appreciate the complexities of our interests in the region. The Houthis are trouble. They launch missiles and armed UAVs into Saudi territory and international waters, and that is a direct threat to Americans. They are starving the Yemeni people, diverting assistance, and holding civilians hostage to their political demands.

The Houthis are one of the groups Iran uses to drive instability and gain influence. We all know what a serious threat Iran poses in the region. The regime is the world's prolific state sponsor of terrorism, so it is important that we push back against Iran and those who depend on Iranian support.

But the Saudi-led coalition's response has not grappled with this problem in a responsible way, in a way designed to minimize damage to civilians and the communities where they live, and in a way that could help bring about a political solution to this crisis.

Instead, time after time after time, coalition strikes have resulted in the loss of innocent life, and the violence has set off ripple effects that have contributed to the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

Madam Speaker, 85,000 children have starved to death and 14 million are on the brink of famine. More than 1 million suffer from cholera, and just last week, the coalition reportedly bombed a hospital run by Save the Children.

In the face of this catastrophe, the administration has demanded no accountability from the Saudis and Emiratis. But Congress won't remain silent.

This brings us, once again, to the resolution we are now considering. This measure would specifically ban aerial refueling of warplanes carrying out airstrikes. The Defense Department has stopped refueling as a matter of policy. This measure would do so as a matter of law.

The Defense Department also says that the United States is not engaged in hostilities when it comes to this

war. Well, the Defense Department is entitled to its opinion, but Congress is a coequal branch of government, and only we say when the United States is at war. We don't look to the executive branch to explain the war powers that reside in this body or for permission to exercise that power, the power the Framers gave to Congress.

This measure is written very narrowly, so it won't tie the hands of the executive branch or set new precedents or cause unintended consequences when it comes to our other security agreements around the world.

It does nothing to expand or modify the authority provided under the Authorization for Use of Military Force this body passed in 2001. Instead, it focuses on this particular tragedy and sends the message that enough is enough, that Congress will no longer abdicate its responsibility when it comes to foreign policy, and that we will push to make sure our values are at the core of how the United States conducts itself around the world.

This resolution is rooted in those values: respect for human rights, for human dignity, and for the belief that all people should be able to live free of fear, oppression, and violence.

I hope the President understands that; and if he uses his veto pen, I hope he understands just what it is he is vetoing.

Let me thank Mr. KHANNA for his hard work and leadership on the resolution we are considering today.

I also want to thank our ranking member on the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. MCCAUL. We have an honest disagreement on this one, but he has consistently and forthrightly made his case on the policy. I am grateful to all my colleagues who have contributed so much to this important debate.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, let me first say, at the outset, that the chairman and I work very closely together. There is a recent article that said that Chairman ELIOT ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL forge a rare bipartisan bond, and I think that is the way we like to conduct this committee. It is a national security committee, and it needs to be bipartisan. However, as the chairman mentioned, there are times when we do have policy differences, but we do have respect in those differences.

We did take this up on the floor several weeks ago. I did oppose it then, and I oppose it for the same reasons today, most importantly, because the resolution uses the war powers mechanisms to direct the removal of U.S. troops from hostilities.

The problem is there are no U.S. Forces to remove, and the basic premise of this resolution is that somehow we have forces in Yemen that need to be removed that are engaged in hostilities. As the Department of Defense

has repeatedly confirmed, no United States Forces are conducting hostilities against the Houthis in Yemen.

This resolution abuses a war powers tool to get at a completely different security assistance issue which Congress already has clear tools to address. If Members want to condition or cut off U.S. security assistance to Saudi Arabia, then bring forward a bill to do just that.

But this resolution does nothing to address the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. It does nothing to secure justice for the heinous murder of Jamal Khashoggi. It does not even make real decisions on U.S. security assistance to Saudi Arabia. The only thing it addresses clearly is the midair refueling of coalition aircraft, ended in November of 2018, which is not in danger of restarting.

Meanwhile, this resolution stretches the definition of war powers hostilities to cover non-U.S. military operations by other countries. Specifically, it interprets U.S. support to these countries as “engagement in hostilities.”

This radical reinterpretation has implications far beyond Saudi Arabia. This precedent will empower any single Member to use privileged war powers procedures to force congressional referendums that could disrupt U.S. security cooperation agreements with more than 100 countries around the world.

Just days after Israel was forced to respond to rocket attacks from Gaza, I believe this would be a dangerous precedent to legitimize this abuse of process.

It could also be used to call into question our commitments to NATO members. Let me remind my colleagues that we are celebrating NATO’s 70th anniversary this week, as we saw the Secretary of NATO address a joint session of Congress.

Finally, this one-sided resolution completely ignores the destructive role of the Houthis and their backers in Tehran. The Houthis violently overthrew the Government of Yemen. They are attacking Saudi Arabia with weapons they got from Iran in violation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions. They have killed Saudi civilians and endangered many Americans living there.

Human Rights Watch accused the Houthis of taking hostages and torturing detainees. The United Nations says the Houthis use civilian human shields. The World Food Program has criticized them for illegally stealing urgently needed food aid. The Houthis have targeted ships in the Red Sea.

These realities are ignored in the text of this resolution. The only impact this resolution will have on the Houthis will be to encourage them.

In addition, Madam Speaker, this is very important because, since the last time we debated this on the floor, the Houthis engaged in a propaganda outlet, supported by Hezbollah, actively touting this very resolution online. They used our debate on the floor of

the Congress to advance their propaganda, a proxy of Iran and Yemen.

This is what we are doing here today. I would submit, Madam Speaker, that is very dangerous. It is dangerous, and I believe it is reckless.

This will weaken the hand of the U.N. Special Envoy, as well, to Yemen, whose efforts currently represent the best hope we have of bringing a negotiated end to this conflict and ending the suffering of the people of Yemen.

So, for these reasons, I continue to oppose this pro-Iran, pro-Houthi resolution. I hope that my colleagues will join me in voting against it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, the blood of innocents stains this Trump administration. And while the Trump family pals around with Saudi murderers, that blood continues to flow in the world’s worst humanitarian disaster. Only last week, four years after the first Saudi assault on Yemen, they killed another group of children at a hospital, apparently with American bombs.

Just as the Trump administration has aided and abetted war crimes in Yemen, this Congress has aided and abetted the Trump administration in avoiding any accountability.

Last year, Republicans blocked any consideration of a bipartisan Senate resolution to stop U.S. involvement in this war. Most recently, these folks used a devious motion to recommit, whose real purpose was not the very worthy goal of condemning anti-Semitism, but the sole purpose was to obstruct this resolution and ensure it never became adopted by Congress.

Today, we must reject any such motion—no matter how worthy it may be, it can be dealt with in other legislation—in order to halt all American involvement in this travesty.

We are talking about our relations with the Saudis. You know those folks, Madam Speaker. They are the ones with the leader with the bone saw to dismember an opponent and who tortures women for asserting their rights.

Hearts do break for those who are lost and tortured, but until we break with the Saudis in Yemen, the bombing, the starvation, the disease, and the slaughter will continue.

Months, years, hundreds of small graves ago, this Congress should have done its job. Today is a moment of moral clarity, a moment for this Chamber to act as the Constitution requires: to weigh war and peace and, for once, to extract ourselves from a war we did not start and to find a way to make peace the victor.

We can finally place a clean War Powers Act resolution directly on President Trump’s desk, and do so today. Let us do what is right, and let us do so before more young lives are destroyed.

Mr. McCaul. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, first of all, let me thank Chairman ENGEL for yielding and also for his leadership.

Also, I want to just mention Congressmen KHANNA, POCAN, and MCGOVERN. I want to also thank them in addition to Chairman ENGEL for bringing this critical measure to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S.J. Res. 7, which, of course, is a joint resolution directing the removal of U.S. Armed Forces from hostilities in Yemen.

This critical resolution, which we are taking now for the second time this Congress, would end America’s unconstitutional participation in the war in Yemen.

Since 2015, the United States has participated in the Saudi-led military campaign in Yemen without authorization from Congress. We have helped create and worsen the world’s greatest and largest humanitarian crisis.

Madam Speaker, 22.2 million Yemenis—that is 75 percent of the population—needs humanitarian assistance.

□ 1000

At least 85,000 children under the age of 5—85,000—have died from war-related hunger and disease.

Our involvement in this war is shameful. That is why this bipartisan and bicameral measure to end the United States’ unconstitutional role in this war is so important.

Yes, Madam Speaker, I voted against that 2001 resolution, because I knew it was open-ended and would set the stage for endless wars. It was a blank check. We see this once again today in Yemen. We must repeal this 2001 blank check for endless wars.

Over the past 18 years, we have seen the executive branch use this AUMF time and time again. It is a blank check to wage war without congressional oversight.

It is past time for Congress to reassert our Constitutional duty to debate on matters of war and peace, and it is past time to end this illegal, horrific war in Yemen.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” and to support this bipartisan bill to end the United States’ role in Yemen.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Texas. We may have some agreements because, frankly, I think there is not one person on this floor, in this House and in the Senate, who does not believe that there has been enormous violence in Yemen.

I have been to Yemen. I want to go back. I know that it is, if not the poorest, one of the poorest nations in the world. The children are suffering. There is a humanitarian crisis.

If the United States should be engaged in any aspect of this, let our presence loom large in a humanitarian way.

I think it is important to remind my colleagues of the vicious bombing of an innocent school bus where 40 children died and any number of other incidences where children were involved and died.

Now, these children are suffering from malnutrition and are dying from lack of access to healthcare, as well as no food. We can be a major force, the United States, in providing that humanitarian aid.

But this is a resolution already passed by the other body, the Senate, that indicates that, if we are to be engaged in a war, there must be a debate under the Constitution about taking Americans into war. Because the Americans who offer their sons and daughters clearly are sacrificing. And those who put on the uniform—and we thank them—are willing to sacrifice their lives.

This is a conflict between the Saudis and Houthis. It is a violence that is going to go on and on. And if we are to prop them up—the Saudis—they will never stop. They will never seek reconciliation. They will never stop killing the babies because of an “accident,” they declared: It was a mistake. We don’t know how it happened.

We cannot allow Yemeni children, or any children, to be in the line of fire.

So, this resolution indicates that the Congress must make a determinative, if you will, assessment and engagement through the War Powers Act and its powers to declare war under the Constitution.

Frankly, I believe that this is a must-pass resolution. It must be signed immediately, and can be signed, by the President of the United States, and we can begin to, in an effective manner, withdraw troops and provide humanitarian aid to save the lives of children.

Madam Speaker, I support the resolution, and I thank the Senate for sending it to us. We should vote on it and pass it now.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership on this, and I really want to thank Representative RO KHANNA for his continued, steadfast efforts to end this situation.

So, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution and finally end U.S. involvement in the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

If we fail to act today, if we let one more opportunity to end these horrors pass us by, we are telling the world we are okay with another day in which innocent civilians are killed; another day that nearly 20 million people go without basic healthcare, and even more in need of emergency food aid; another day that a child must battle illnesses that could easily have been prevented,

if not for this crisis happening on our watch.

We have an opportunity, as Members of this body, Republicans and Democrats, to tackle the difficult problems and have the debates that others have ignored for too long. This is one of those problems. And this is one of those moments that makes me optimistic that the tide is finally turning.

I want to thank the chairman for making this a top priority. It is long past time for Congress to reassert its role, our role, in foreign policy and exercise our Constitutional duty.

Seeing the level of suffering in Yemen, we cannot wait one more day to do it. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA), who has been so instrumental in bringing everyone together to make a change in policy that is much needed.

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the chairman for his leadership and his entire staff’s leadership for getting us to this point. Let me be very clear. If it weren’t for Chairman ENGEL, we would not have this vote on the floor today.

My motivation for this bill is very simple. I don’t want to see 14 million Yemenis starve to death. That is what Martin Griffith had said at the U.N., that if the Saudis don’t stop their blockade and let food and medicine in, within 6 months we will see one of the greatest humanitarian crises in the world.

That should be a bipartisan issue, that this Congress speak with a moral voice that food and medicine should get to civilians.

Now, as Chairman ENGEL knows, and others know, I am not for the BDS movement. I have supported very strongly resolutions condemning anti-Semitism. But I also don’t think that these tactics should be used as weapons to prevent efforts to stop the greatest humanitarian crisis in the world. That is insulting. It is insulting.

Those issues should be voted on separately, and I will proudly vote, when the time comes, against the BDS efforts.

Madam Speaker, I want to, with that, thank again Chairman ENGEL, Representative MCGOVERN, Speaker PELOSI, and Majority Leader HOYER and their teams for getting us to this point.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in strong support of S.J. Res. 7 invoking the War Powers Resolution to withdraw U.S. military support for the Gulf coalition in Yemen.

For 4 years, the war in Yemen has ground on, killing tens of thousands of Yemeni civilians, and putting millions at imminent risk of starvation and deprivation.

The cause of the war is complicated and has much to do with Iran’s malign influence.

But our interest today is not in debating the blame for the war, but in bringing it to an end. That is why I urge all Members to support this resolution, because it is in our interest and, above all, in the interest of the Yemeni people to end the war.

U.S. military support for the Saudi coalition has not prevented civilian suffering, and it is my hope that, by withdrawing our support, we will make clear that a diplomatic resolution is the only resolution to the conflict.

Madam Speaker, I urge support for this resolution. I urge Members to oppose any motion to commit, which would have the effect of killing this bill and prolonging the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As I close, I include in the RECORD a statement of administration policy issued on Monday.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY
S.J. RES. 7—DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT TO REMOVE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS—SEN. SANDERS, I-VT AND 19 COSPONSORS

The Administration strongly opposes passage of S.J. Res. 7, a joint resolution that purports to direct the President to remove United States forces from hostilities in or affecting the Republic of Yemen, with certain exceptions.

The premise of the joint resolution is flawed. Since 2015, the United States has provided limited support to member countries of the Saudi-led coalition, including intelligence sharing, logistics support, and, until recently, aerial refueling, to assist in the defense of United States allies and partners. The provision of this support has not caused United States forces to be introduced into hostilities. Such support is provided pursuant to licenses and approvals under the Arms Export Control Act, statutory authorities for Department of Defense to provide logistics support to foreign countries, and the President’s constitutional powers. Because the President has directed United States forces to support the Saudi-led coalition under his constitutional powers, the joint resolution would raise serious constitutional concerns to the extent it seeks to override the President’s determination as Commander in Chief.

In addition to its erroneous premise, the joint resolution would harm bilateral relationships in the region, negatively affect our ability to prevent the spread of violent extremist organizations—such as al-Qa’ida in the Arabian Peninsula and ISIS in Yemen—and establish bad precedent for future legislation by defining “hostilities” to include defense cooperation such as aerial refueling for purposes of this legislation. While we appreciate that sections 5 and 6 of the resolution acknowledge these serious consequences to some extent, after-the-fact reporting is not an effective means to mitigate them. Our continued cooperation with regional partner nations allows the United States to support diplomatic negotiations to end the conflict, promote humanitarian access, mitigate civilian casualties, enhance efforts to recover United States hostages in Yemen, and defeat terrorists who seek to harm the United States.

If S.J. Res. 7 were presented to the President, his senior advisors would recommend he veto the joint resolution.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, it really, basically, states yet again that the fundamental premise of this resolution is flawed, because U.S. forces are not engaged in hostilities against the Houthis in Yemen, which is what the War Powers Act requires.

If we want to cut off economic assistance or logistic assistance, security assistance to Saudi, there is a way to do that, but it is not through the War Powers Act.

I think it is unfortunate that we couldn't work that out, but I think we are using the wrong vehicle here. I think this confrontation abuses the War Powers process, and we need to protect the integrity of the War Powers Act that Congress, in its wisdom, passed.

Also, what worries me is the resolution stays silent on the role of Iran. It does not condemn the Houthis, who are responsible for the killings. It tells them both to press on. It also undermines the peace negotiations going on, as I speak. The U.S. envoy is working with the full support of the United States to negotiate a political end to this conflict.

Getting all parties to the table has taken substantial pressure, which I believe this resolution would relieve.

Again, I think the fact that the Houthis are using this resolution as propaganda to advance their cause is concerning and disturbing.

The other side cannot tell us specifically what assistance this resolution would cut off. What I can say for sure is that this resolution says to the Houthis and to Iran to keep going, because you can gain more ground.

It only emboldens the rebels who violently overthrew Yemen's government and the radical regime that backs them. That would be Iran.

So I think this resolution would set a dangerous precedent with respect to the War Powers Act, a dangerous, damaging policy. Once again, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, let me say this. Everyone who knows me knows that I hold Iran guilty to many nefarious things that are happening in that region. This is not really about Iran. Iran is providing dangerous weapons to the Houthis, and the Houthis have starved the Yemeni people, killed civilians, and diverted assistance. I am not here to defend the Houthis.

The Saudis do have legitimate concerns about the Houthis, and the Houthis are not my vision of good and righteous. Quite the opposite.

But this resolution doesn't empower Iran. Quite the opposite. The longer the conflict goes on, and the longer the United States supports it, the better off Iran is.

We are really doing two things here. We are saying to the administration—and I, frankly, would say this, given my experience over the past two decades—to any administration. There is no blank check for war. We have abrogated our responsibility in the years that I have been here—and I am as guilty as anyone—by allowing administration after administration after administration to conduct wars that this body should have voted on.

Only Congress can declare war. And if we ignore what is happening with the civilian population in this war with the Houthis, then we do so at our own peril. We then say that, because Saudi Arabia does have legitimate concerns—and they do—we are giving them a blank check to do whatever they want.

□ 1015

No blank checks anymore. No blank checks to say the administration can run wars without getting the approval of Congress. And no blank checks to indiscriminately bomb and have innocent civilians and schoolchildren in buses be killed, and people starving in a humanitarian crisis.

We can't just sit back and say: "Well, you know, we have difficulties with Iran, so we are going to look the other way." I have lots of difficulties with Iran, but we can't look the other way when people are starving or when people are being killed. That is what we are doing now.

So we are doing two things. We are saying no more war in which we are complicit, where a population is wholesale starving. We are also saying that this body is not giving a blank check to every administration. And I would be doing this no matter who the President of the United States was.

We need to reclaim our authority. We have fought in war after war after war. As everyone knows, we haven't declared war since before all of us were born, since December 7, 1941, when President Roosevelt stood up right here and declared war. That was the last time.

I hope this will be the start of Congress taking back its constitutional power, not for the sake of having a fight with the executive branch, but for the sake of doing what we are supposed to do.

Congress has the power to declare war. Congress has the power to say what we do when it comes to war. We are taking that back today. We are saying that America will not be complicit in the wholesale beating down of civilian populations and looking the other way.

Let me say that again. Iran has fueled this conflict through its support for the Houthis, but the longer this conflict rages, the better it is for Iran. Iran thrives on every misstep of the Saudi-led coalition. A vote for this resolution is a vote to end the United States' involvement in this war, a war which helps Iran.

Let me say again, for Congress, this is an important step in reclaiming our

role in foreign policy, by debating where and when the United States military is engaged abroad. With the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, it is critical that we act now. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

Before I yield back, I want to, again, tell Mr. MCCAUL that we don't always agree on things. I think we agree on things more than we don't. But I do appreciate his earnest attempts with me to try to make foreign policy as bipartisan as we can. I think that is what we need to do.

We need to show unity in strength. In unity, there is strength. We are all Americans. We may disagree from time to time, but I think we are not going to be disagreeable. So I thank Mr. MCCAUL.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S.J. Res. 7, which directs the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

The passage of S.J. Res. 7 would mark the first time in the 45 years since the enactment of the War Powers Act that the House of Representatives successfully invoked the statute's removal mechanism to compel the Executive Branch to remove American troops from harm's way.

I support this resolution because, Congress has the sole power to declare war under Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 of the United States Constitution.

Madam Speaker, Congress has not declared war with respect to, or provided a specific statutory authorization for, the conflict between military forces led by Saudi Arabia, including forces from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal, and Sudan (the Saudi-led coalition), against the Houthis, also known as Ansar Allah, in the Republic of Yemen.

Since March 2015, members of the United States Armed Forces have been introduced into hostilities between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis, including providing to the Saudi-led coalition aerial targeting assistance, intelligence sharing, and mid-flight aerial refueling.

The United States has established a Joint Combined Planning Cell with Saudi Arabia, in which members of the United States Armed Forces assist in aerial targeting and help to coordinate military and intelligence activities.

Madam Speaker, the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis constitutes, within the meaning of Section 4(a) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1543(a)), either hostilities or a situation where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances into which United States Armed Forces have been introduced.

Section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(c)) states that, "at any time that United States Armed Forces are engaged in hostilities outside the territory of the United States, its possessions and territories without a declaration of war or specific statutory authorization, such forces shall be removed by the President if the Congress so directs."

Most importantly, no specific statutory authorization for the use of United States Armed

Forces with respect to the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis in Yemen has been enacted.

Also, no provision of law explicitly authorizes the provision of targeting assistance or of midair refueling services to warplanes of Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates that are engaged in such conflict.

For this reason, the resolution directs that the President remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in or affecting the Republic of Yemen, except United States Armed Forces engaged in operations directed at al-Qaeda or associated forces, by not later than the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment.

The resolution makes clear that the term “hostilities” includes in-flight refueling, non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the ongoing civil war in Yemen.

Madam Speaker, Yemen is the largest humanitarian crisis in the world right now. The Yemen crisis began in the Arab Spring of 2011, when an uprising forced the country's long-time authoritarian president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, to hand over power to his deputy, Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi.

Since 2015, Saudi Arabia has launched an estimated 18,000 air strikes on Yemen, attacking hospitals, schools, water treatment plants, funerals, markets and even farms.

The Saudis also imposed a blockade on food, fuel and medicine from freely entering the country in what can only be described as a deliberate effort to starve the civilian population into submission.

More than 14 million Yemenis are steps away from starvation and at least 85,000 children under the age of five have perished from war-related hunger and disease.

The United States has supported the Saudi led air campaign with mid-air refueling support, intelligence and targeting assistance, and other support.

Yemen is experiencing the world's worst famine in 100 years, with 12 million to 13 million innocent civilians at risk of dying from the lack of food within months.

Madam Speaker, too many lives hang in the balance to allow American involvement in Yemen war to continue.

I ask all members to join me in supporting S.J. Res. 37.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

The question is on the third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of S.J. Res. 7 is postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 18 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1045

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.

ARMY SPECIALIST THOMAS J. WILWERTH POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 829) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1450 Montauk Highway in Mastic, New York, as the “Army Specialist Thomas J. Wilwerth Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken. The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Ms. HILL of California. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 423, nays 0, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 151]
YEAS—423

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| Abraham | Butterfield | Davidson (OH) | Garcia (IL) | Lofgren | Sánchez |
| Adams | Byrne | Davis (CA) | Garcia (TX) | Long | Sarbanes |
| Aderholt | Calvert | Davis, Danny K. | Gianforte | Loudermilk | Scalise |
| Aguilar | Carbajal | Davis, Rodney | Gibbs | Lowenthal | Scanlon |
| Allen | Cárdenas | Dean | Gohmert | Lowe | Schakowsky |
| Allred | Carson (IN) | DeFazio | Golden | Lucas | Schiff |
| Amash | Carter (GA) | DeGette | Gomez | Luetkemeyer | Schneider |
| Amodei | Carter (TX) | DeLauro | Gonzalez (OH) | Luján | Schrader |
| Armstrong | Cartwright | DelBene | Gonzalez (TX) | Luria | Schrier |
| Arrington | Case | Delgado | Gooden | Lynch | Schweikert |
| Axne | Casten (IL) | Demings | Gosar | Malinowski | Scott (VA) |
| Babin | Castor (FL) | DeSaulnier | Gottheimer | Maloney | Scott, Austin |
| Bacon | Castro (TX) | DesJarlais | Graves (GA) | Carolyn B. | Scott, David |
| Baird | Chabot | Deutch | Graves (LA) | Maloney, Sean | Sensenbrenner |
| Balderson | Cheney | Diaz-Balart | Graves (MO) | Marchant | Serrano |
| Banks | Chu, Judy | Dingell | Green (TN) | Marshall | Sewell (AL) |
| Barr | Ciilline | Doggett | Green (TX) | Massie | Shalala |
| Barragán | Cisneros | Doyle, Michael | Griffith | Mast | Sherman |
| Bass | Clarke (NY) | F. | Grijalva | Matsui | Sherrill |
| Beatty | Clay | Duffy | Grothman | McAdams | Shimkus |
| Bera | Cleaver | Duncan | Guest | McBath | Simpson |
| Bergman | Cline | Dunn | Guthrie | McCarthy | Sires |
| Beyer | Cloud | Emmer | Haaland | McCauley | Slotkin |
| Biggs | Clyburn | Engel | Hagedorn | McClintock | Smith (MO) |
| Bilirakis | Cohen | Escobar | Harder (CA) | McCollum | Smith (NE) |
| Bishop (GA) | Cole | Eshoo | Harris | McGovern | Smith (NJ) |
| Bishop (UT) | Collins (GA) | Espallat | Hartzer | McHenry | Smith (WA) |
| Blumenauer | Collins (NY) | Estes | Hastings | McKinley | Smucker |
| Blunt Rochester | Comer | Evans | Hayes | McNerney | Soto |
| Bonamici | Conaway | Ferguson | Heck | Meadows | Spanberger |
| Bost | Connolly | Finkenauer | Hern, Kevin | Meeks | Spano |
| Boyle, Brendan | Cooper | Fitzpatrick | Herrera Beutler | Meng | Speier |
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| Brady | Costa | Fletcher | Higgins (LA) | Miller | Stauber |
| Brindisi | Courtney | Flores | Higgins (NY) | Mitchell | Stefanik |
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| Brownley (CA) | Crenshaw | Frankel | Holding | Morelle | Stewart |
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| Burchett | Cunningham | Gallagher | Hoyer | Nadler | Taylor |
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