

# WIN WITHOUT WAR



## Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

*Intel for Advocacy*

DATE: 6/7/19

SL: Reining in Trump via process

### [THE HOUSE WILL USE THE NDAA AND APPROPRIATIONS BILLS TO ROLL BACK TRUMP'S WAR MACHINE](#)

Next week the House Armed Services Committee will consider amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), while the full House chamber will amend and vote on a series of appropriations bills, three of which have a significant impact on U.S. defense and foreign policy, and will likely result in authorizing a gargantuan sum of upwards of \$733 billion in security spending.

Despite this ridiculously high top line, progressives are seeking to insert key measures into these bills that will tie the hands of Donald Trump's war machine and push back on efforts to continue to militarize our foreign policy.

#### **ENDING THE WAR IN YEMEN**

Forty-five national organizations sent a [letter](#) to Congress this week urging it "to end further U.S. participation in the Saudi-UAE coalition's war in Yemen" when considering the NDAA and defense appropriations. Trump has thumbed his nose at Congress many times on this issue, vetoing a bipartisan War Powers Resolution mandating that the U.S. withdraw its unauthorized role in the conflict, and more recently moving to [bypass Congress](#) on a controversial arms sale to Saudi Arabia and the UAE so they can continue fanning the flames of war and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

The Appropriations committee [adopted an amendment](#) to add the Yemen War Powers language passed by both the House and Senate earlier this year, meaning that as the bill hits the floor, a provision on Yemen is already included. Even still, it's likely that [amendments will be offered](#) to both the defense appropriations bill and the NDAA to continue the push to end all U.S. participation in the Saudi-led war against Houthis in Yemen and block these arms deals.

See our latest action the ban the arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the UAE [here](#).

#### **NO WAR WITH IRAN**

# WIN WITHOUT WAR



As evidence [continues to mount](#) that Trump and John Bolton bring us [closer to war with Iran](#), it is urgent now more than ever that Congress asserts its authority to step in the way. Rep. Anna Eshoo recently introduced [a bill](#) that would bar funding for an unauthorized war with Iran.

Be on the lookout for an amendment to the NDAA that would block Trump from taking us to war with Iran.

You can also sign our [petition](#) opposing Bolton's Iran war. Our friends at NIAC Action are running a [national campaign](#) calling on Congress to block Trump's war path. And both [MoveOn](#) and [Daily Kos](#) have petitions to stop war with Iran.

Additionally, in response to news that the State Department has funded a [propaganda operation that is attacking journalists](#), academics, and human rights activists [who are critical](#) of the Trump administration's Iran policy, Rep. Ilhan Omar has submitted an [amendment](#) to the defense appropriations bill that would zero out funding for the agency within the State Department that is subsidizing these programs.

## KILLING GATEWAY NUKES

Donald Trump wants to make the use of nuclear weapons easier by deploying so-called "low-yield" warheads. These weapons only make us less safe. The idea that they are "low-yield" is incredibly deceptive. Nuclear weapons are nuclear weapons. Moreover, the president may not only feel less restrained to use it, but also deploying it could invite Russia or other nuclear armed adversaries to lower their threshold on nuclear weapons use, thus providing a gateway to a catastrophic nuclear war. (Click [here](#) and [here](#) for more resources.)

That's why the NDAA as drafted now [contains a provision](#) that would prohibit funding to further produce and deploy these weapons. But Republicans [are likely](#) to try to remove it next week in the amendment process (as well as try to add funding for it in the Energy and Water appropriations bill, which also has an amendment to cut funding for the Long Range Standoff Weapon, or LRSO, a [redundant weapon](#) that adds no strategic value to the U.S. arsenal).

It's also why more than two dozen national security experts [wrote to Congress this week](#) urging it to "defund and prohibit deployment of low-yield nuclear weapons in this year's NDAA to reduce the risk of nuclear escalation."

## WHAT ELSE?

The defense appropriations bill includes Rep. Barbara Lee's [amendment](#) to repeal the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force and from what we've seen thus far, no amendments

# WIN WITHOUT WAR



have been offered to try to force a vote to strip that language from the bill. That bill also contains proposed amendments to scale back operations in Afghanistan and bar funding for Trump's transgender ban in the military or any [border wall](#).

But there's so much more! Because these pieces of legislation have become must-pass vehicles in an age when Congress is passing fewer laws than ever, there's almost no limit to what issues may be considered via amendments. As we have for several years, we'll be tracking this legislation closely. You can follow along on Twitter [@WinWithoutWar](#), and of course you can reach out to us directly with additional questions about what's happening in a busy few weeks in Congress!

## **BURIED LEDES**

Carbon dioxide levels in our atmosphere [peaked to record levels](#) last month. Meanwhile, a new [report](#) conducted by a former fossil fuel executive and backed by the former head of Australia's military concluded that there is a **"real possibility that human life on earth may be on the way to extinction"** because of the climate crisis.

Also this week, we found out that Americans [believe](#) **so-called "fake news" is a bigger problem than climate change**, and the Democratic National Committee [isn't interested](#) in having the 2020 presidential candidates have a discussion about the issue.

On the 52nd anniversary of the Israeli occupation, Israeli human rights group B'Tselem published an [interactive map](#) illustrating **"the various measures Israel has used to encroach upon Palestinian space over the decades."**

Our friends at National Security Action put news of the State Department funding a propaganda operation [into context](#) as **"the latest example of the Trump administration's abuse of power to go after perceived political enemies."**

**Iran continues to comply with the limits on its nuclear program** [agreed to](#) in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

And finally, one day after the House passed a bill granting them permanent residency in the United States, so-called **DREAMers and temporary protected status beneficiaries rang the Nasdaq opening bell** [this week](#). "We value the contributions of immigrants across all industries," Nasdaq's twitter account [tweeted](#). "Thank you for helping us celebrate [#ImmigrantHeritageMonth!](#)"