

WIN WITHOUT WAR



RESISTANCE RECESS: OUR CHANCE TO STOP WAR WITH IRAN

SAMPLE TOWNHALL QUESTIONS

- As a Member of Congress, what are you doing to stop Donald Trump and his war cabinet from starting a needless, costly, and destructive war with Iran?
- What will you do to ensure the Khanna-Gaetz NDAA amendment that prohibits funding for an unauthorized war with Iran makes it into the final bill?

SUMMARY

Donald Trump and his [War Cabinet](#), led by National Security Advisor John Bolton and Mike Pompeo, are using the Iraq War Playbook to put the United States on a path to war with Iran. For more than two years, we've seen one reckless action after another—from violating the Iran nuclear deal and imposing crippling economic sanctions that [hurt ordinary Iranians](#), to the unprecedented step of designating parts of Iran's military as a terrorist organization and sanctioning Iran's top diplomat. All of these actions put us one step closer to another disastrous war of choice in the Middle East.

Team Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran is not working, and is only [provoking more tensions](#). Simply put, we are closer to war with Iran today than we have ever been. Instead of beating the drums for war, the United States should be pursuing diplomacy, and, as a first step, rejoin the [Iran nuclear deal](#) that blocks Iran from getting a nuclear weapon.

Congress and the American people have a chance to interrupt Team Trump's march to war with Iran. This summer, Congress [said "no" to war with Iran without congressional authorization](#) as part of the House-passed National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) when it passed the Khanna-Gaetz (pronounced GATES) amendment by a vote of 251-170, including support from 27 House Republicans. The Senate considered a similar amendment to its NDAA which received bipartisan majority support, but fell short of the 60-vote threshold for passage. So, there's no guarantee that language to prevent unauthorized war with Iran will be enacted into law. **This recess, you can play a vital role in stopping Trump's march to war with Iran by demanding that your Representative and Senators act to prevent war with Iran.**

MESSAGING POINTS

Donald Trump and John Bolton are using the Iraq War playbook to lay the groundwork for a conflict with Iran.

- The Trump administration has consistently sought to link seemingly disconnected events to create the narrative that conflict is the only viable option.
- Trump is following the lead of the George W. Bush administration — including Bolton — who justified the Iraq war with tall tales of weapons of mass destruction and an alleged connection to al-Qaeda.

The American people do not want another needless, costly, and disastrous war of choice in the Middle East.

- A war with Iran would be catastrophic for the lives of countless Iranians, U.S. servicemembers, the region and broader global community.
- Polling shows that the majority of Americans across party lines do not want war with Iran.

There is no congressional authorization for war with Iran.

- The legally dubious 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force (AUMFs) – which have served as a blank check for endless, global war for nearly two decades – do not justify war with Iran.

Diplomacy remains the best option going forward in dealing with Iran.

- There is no military solution to our challenges with Iran.
- Diplomacy is the best way to de-escalate tensions and advance lasting security, cooperation, peace and human rights in the region.
- Any recent Iranian aggression in the region is a defensive response to the United States build up forces in the region and other provocations.

By violating the Iran nuclear deal, the Trump administration is provoking conflict and tension with Iran and driving us towards war.

- The United States was the first nation to violate the Iran nuclear deal by withdrawing and reimposing broad economic sanctions on Iran.
- Only after Trump withdrawing from the deal has Iran violated the uranium enrichment [clause of the deal](#).

Congress has an opportunity to assert the will of the American people and say no to Trump's war with Iran once and for all.

- The Khanna-Gaetz amendment to the NDAA would prohibit funds being used to wage an unauthorized war on Iran, effectively stopping the Trump administration's ability to launch a war without congressional authorization.
- This [amendment](#) is "proof that opposition to war with Iran transcends partisan politics, with some of Trump's closest allies having voted for it."