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Roll Call and Public Statements by House Members who voted NO on FY2020 NDAA Conference Report

Amash (MI)	García (IL)	Meng (NY)
Bass (CA)	<i>Gohmert</i> (TX)	Nadler (NY)
Blumenauer (OR)	Gomez (CA)	Napolitano (CA)
<i>Buck</i> (CO)	<i>Griffith</i> (VA)	Neguse (CO)
Chu, Judy (CA)	Grijalva (AZ)	Ocasio-Cortez (NY)
Clarke (NY)	Huffman (CA)	Omar (MN)
Cohen (TN)	Jayapal (WA)	Pocan (WI)
Davis, Danny K. (IL)	Kennedy (MA)	Pressley (MA)
DeFazio (OR)	Khanna (CA)	Raskin (MD)
DeGette (CO)	Kildee (MI)	<i>Rice</i> (SC)
DeSaulnier (CA)	Lee (CA)	Schakowsky (IL)
Dingell (MI)	Levin (MI)	Tlaib (MI)
Doyle, Michael F. (PA)	Lowenthal (CA)	Tonko (NY)
Engel (NY)	<i>Massie</i> (KY)	Velázquez (NY)
Español (NY)	<i>McClintock</i> (CA)	Watson Coleman (NJ)
Gabbard (HI)	McGovern (MA)	Welch (VT)

Italics = Republican

Rep. Amash (MI) (via [Twitter](#)):

“Voted no on the NDAA, which allows indefinite detention of Americans without charge/trial, reauthorizes intelligence agencies without reforms to protect Americans’ rights, violates the original budget caps, and makes no reforms to rein in unsustainable spending. It passed 377-48.”

Rep. Blumenauer (OR) (via [official statement](#)):

“This is the best NDAA bill in decades. Chairman Smith did a masterful job including many of our most valued priorities. There were many things to applaud, including paid family leave for all federal workers and my House-passed amendments to modify reporting requirements and promote climate resiliency at Department of Defense facilities. I’ve been committed for years to securing and protecting Special Immigrant Visas for thousands of Afghan and Iraqi allies, and it was extremely gratifying to see it included as well. However, this bill authorizes far too much money for defense spending. It irresponsibly allows for the proliferation of low-yield nuclear

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weaponry, does not reduce U.S. support for Saudi aggression in Yemen, and does not repeal language authorizing the 2002 AUMF. This bill also does not prohibit border wall construction, which is unacceptable. I applaud Chairman Smith for extracting as much as he possibly could out of this package, but it's not something I can in good conscience vote for. However, the direction we are heading is very encouraging, and clearly shows that Democratic leadership makes a difference.”

Rep. Chu (CA) (via [Twitter](#)):

The [#NDAA](#) includes imp't wins, like a raise for the troops & [#PaidParentalLeave](#). But b/c it also prolongs endless & undefined wars, excludes trans-men & women, supports the Saudi-war in Yemen, continues detention at Gitmo, and more, I had to vote NO.

Rep. Cohen (TN) (via [Twitter](#)):

“On Monday, the [@WashingtonPost](#) reported on the lies & waste in our 18-year war in [#Afghanistan](#). On Wednesday, we were asked to vote for the largest defense budget since WW2 and another \$4.5 billion to continue this war. I said no. [#NDAA](#)”

Rep. DeFazio (OR) (in floor debate):

“Beyond bloated Pentagon spending, I am extremely disappointed that the Conference Report strips out provisions that would have prevented the president from using unauthorized force against Iran, prohibited U.S. support for and participation in the Saudi-led coalition's military operations in Yemen, and repealed the long-outdated 2002 authorization for the use of military force (AUMF) in Iraq. These provisions passed with bipartisan support in the House, and failure to include them is yet another abdication of Congress's constitutional war powers. I have always advocated for re-affirming Congress's constitutional authority to declare war and limiting the president's authority to engage in armed conflict without the consent of Congress and will continue to do so.”

Rep. DeGette (CO) (via [Twitter](#))

“I was just asked why I voted against the defense bill. While it has some good things, such as paid family leave, I'm not going to vote to give this admin a blank check to wage endless wars while millions of Americans struggle to put food on their table & pay for their medication. The version the House passed previously would have blocked money for Trump's border wall, required congressional approval before waging war with Iran and overturned Trump's ban on transgender troops. The version we were asked to vote on today did none of that.”

Rep. DeSaulnier (CA) (via [official statement](#)):

“Today, a measure authored by Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (CA-11) to honor and provide federal recognition of the Port Chicago 50 passed in the House of Representatives as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (S. 1790). If signed by the President, which is expected

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to happen this month, it would represent the first time that federal law recognizes the racial bias experienced by the Port Chicago 50 and the first official call from Congress that the Secretary of the Navy recommend remediation for the Port Chicago 50. “Seventy-five years ago, the explosion at Port Chicago changed the course of the lives of many and set the stage for racial integration in the military. The brave men who fought back against their unfair, discriminatory treatment have never properly been recognized by the same government that betrayed them. This effort is an important first step toward righting this historical injustice and properly honoring the Port Chicago 50, and we will continue fighting to get the justice these brave service members deserve,” said Congressman DeSaulnier. “The Friends of Port Chicago National Memorial are deeply gratified by Congressman DeSaulnier’s diligent work to include this language recognizing the bias against these African American sailors during World War II. It is extremely meaningful, on the 75th anniversary of this tragedy, that the Congress recognize the discrimination endured by the 256 Port Chicago sailors who were treated so unfairly by the Navy and the nation they served. Survivors of that tragic explosion have said they wanted everyone to know they did their best to help win the War,” said Rev. Diana McDaniel, President of The Friends of Port Chicago National Memorial. Also included in the bill is a provision authored by DeSaulnier to improve financial transparency for America’s veterans who experience hardship when receiving both separation pay and disability pay. S. 1790 also takes a significant step by providing paid family leave for federal workers. Despite these successes, Congressman DeSaulnier ultimately voted against the bill as it increases the defense budget by another \$30 billion, bringing the total spending to a whopping \$738 billion for this year alone with no requirement for an in-depth spending analysis or accountability. Last Congress, Congressman DeSaulnier authored the Department of Defense Waste Reduction Act (H.R. 2367) to address reckless spending at the Department of Defense (DoD) and prevent it from receiving any additional funding until wasteful spending practices within the Department are addressed. He is also a sponsor of the FAMILY Act (H.R. 1185), which would provide universal family leave.”

Rep. Dingell (MI) (via [Twitter](#)):

“The Defense budget also does nothing to end the disastrous war in Yemen. 24 million Yemeni’s are facing death, starvation and disease. U.S. involvement in Yemen must come to an end. For those reasons, I cannot support this defense budget.”

Rep. Gabbard (HI) (via [Twitter](#))

“Yesterday, I voted against the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, the annual defense bill. Though this bill includes some of the things I have long been fighting for — tackling toxic burn pits, making sure our water aquifer at Red Hill is protected, improving Native Hawaiian-owned business opportunities, & more — the problems with this bill far outweigh the positives. The final language in this bill fails to include a repeal of the 2002 Iraq authorization for use of military force and removed my provision to prohibit the unauthorized use of military force

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against Iran and Venezuela. It continues to provide support for Saudi Arabia's genocidal war in Yemen, and expands our nuclear arsenal. This bill provides a stamp of approval for the new cold war and nuclear arms race, pushing us ever closer to the brink of nuclear catastrophe. I refuse to have any part of this and therefore voted against the bill."

Rep. Huffman (CA) (via [official statement](#)):

"Today, Rep. Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) voted against the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which passed the House 377-48. Representative Huffman has historically voted against annual defense authorization bills that have allowed wasteful, unaudited Pentagon spending and open-ended wars. Earlier this year, however, in recognition of many progressive reforms that Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith had secured, Huffman voted to advance the House version of the defense authorization bill. Under Chairman Smith's leadership, H.R. 2500 made long-overdue policy reforms, including repealing the post-9/11 military force authorization and ending U.S. support for the brutal Saudi war in Yemen. Unfortunately, and despite Chairman Smith's best efforts over months of negotiations with the Senate and White House, many of these crucial reforms were removed from the final conference report considered in the House today. "I am grateful to Chairman Smith for his diligence and I recognize that the final version of this bill, while deeply flawed, does include some important policy victories – such as paid parental leave for all federal civilian workers," said Rep. Huffman. "Unfortunately, the GOP Senate and Trump White House rejected too much of the House NDAA and insisted on bad provisions that were not in the House version. That is why I voted against the final conference report." In addition to authorizing far too much military spending with no assurance that there will ever be a serious Pentagon audit, this year's final NDAA conference report stripped away the following key reforms that had been included in the earlier House bill: Repealing the 2001 Authorization of the Use of Military Force and preventing an unconstitutional war with Iran; Addressing widespread pollution of our nation's waters by PFAS chemicals; Ending American support for the Saudi war in Yemen; Blocking Department of Defense funds from being used on a wasteful and unnecessary border wall; and Stopping President Trump from launching a new nuclear arms race. Finally, it is disappointing to see the final NDAA conference report accede to Trump's proposal for a new "Space Force" that will lead to the dangerous and unnecessary militarization of space. Despite the many shortcomings of the final legislation, Huffman was gratified to see the inclusion of two specific provisions he authored: one finalizing an agreement between Sonoma County and the Lytton Band of Pomo Indians, and another ending a decades-long earmark for requiring American coal at a U.S. military base in Germany."

Rep. Khanna (CA) (in [floor debate](#)):

"Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this defense authorization. There are many things that you can call the bill, but it is Orwellian to call it progressive. Let's speak in facts. When President Obama left, the defense budget was \$618 billion. This defense budget is \$120

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billion more than what President Obama left us with. That could fund free public college for every American. It could fund access to high-speed, affordable internet for every American. But it is worse: the bipartisan provision to **stop the war in Yemen**, stripped by the White House; the bipartisan amendment to **stop the war in Iran**, stripped by the White House; the bipartisan provision to **repeal the 2002 George W. Bush authorization** for the war in Iraq which is sending our troops overseas, stripped by the White House. At some time, we can't just rhetorically give standing ovations when the President says that we are going to end endless wars and continue to vote to fund them. It wasn't just President George W. Bush who committed the biggest blunder of foreign policy in the 21st century by sending us to Iraq. It was the abdication of this body, with many Members of Congress who voted right with him. My question is: When are we going to listen to the American people? When are we going to do our Article I duty and stop funding these endless wars and start funding our domestic priorities?"

Rep. Kildee (MI) (via [Twitter](#)):

"As the head of the bipartisan #PFAS Task Force, I want to thank @RepAdamSmith for including many important provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act that I championed to protect service members and their families from **PFAS chemical contamination and lead exposure**. I'm disappointed that additional #PFAS provisions, including those establishing a drinking water standard for PFAS and requiring corporate polluters to clean up contamination, were ultimately blocked by Senate Republicans. I will continue to work to ensure that all Americans are protected from #PFAS chemicals. It is long past time that we get serious about cleaning up these 'forever' chemicals in our communities to protect service members and communities like Oscoda. For this reason, I opposed the final #NDAA bill."

Rep. Lee (CA) (in [floor debate](#)):

"Unfortunately, this bill does not include very important provisions, such as the provision to end support for the Saudi-led coalition in **Yemen**, and two provisions I fought to include that would help end our forever wars. The first is the repeal of the **2001 authorization** to use military force, which is a blank check for endless war. The second is the repeal of the **2002 AUMF**. The House passed my amendment to repeal the 2002 AUMF. It makes absolutely no sense that this outdated AUMF still exists. We must restore some congressional authority on matters of war and peace and finally repeal these AUMFs. Also, I encourage my colleagues to read The Washington Post's recently published "Afghanistan Papers," if they need any more justification for why Congress must reassert itself in matters of war and peace. I can tell you, it is an appalling and shocking read. Finally, the bill before us authorizes a Pentagon budget of about \$733 billion, which is the largest ever authorized. Given the waste, fraud, and abuse at the Pentagon, the failure of the Pentagon to pass an even basic audit, and the unnecessary spending, I am simply unable to support this bill."

Rep. Levin (MI) (via [Twitter](#)):

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This summer, I voted to pass the House's National Defense Authorization Act (#NDAA)—a bill that would prevent an unconstitutional war in Iran, enshrine comprehensive protections from dangerous #PFAS chemicals, block funding for a wasteful border wall, and more ... While I believe the House bill we passed this summer met this standard, I fear the bill before us now does not. Critically important provisions have been stripped from the text, like my bill to make clear that this President lacks the authority to launch a dangerous war with Iran and language to control the discharge of #PFAS into our drinking water.”

Rep. Lowenthal (CA) (via [Twitter](#)):

“Thank you to our Democratic negotiators who secured important priorities in this year’s NDAA, from military pay increases to paid leave for federal workers. However, I can’t support a bill that allows the president to circumvent Congress in authorizing military action. I also can’t support a bill that continues to irresponsibly increase the amount we spend on our military programs. And, I certainly cannot support a bill that supports the terrible foreign policy decisions of this administration. We saw President Trump’s reckless behavior in Syria. He has repeatedly shown willingness to undermine our national security by diverting military resources to a border wall. And he continues to support the appalling and counterproductive Saudi war in Yemen. Congress needs to restore sanity and oversight to our foreign policy. And, we need to ensure our national security while balancing military spending with critical priorities here at home. I cannot support a defense authorization act that does not advance these goals”

Rep. Massie (KY) (via [Twitter](#)):

“This week, we were given 19 hours to review the 3,488 page National Defense Authorization Act — a bill that authorizes \$738 billion of spending in FY2020. The bill passed. I voted no. #NDAA #sassywithmassie”

Rep. Meng (NY) (via [official statement](#)):

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY) issued the following statement after the House of Representatives passed the National Defense Authorization Act this week. “On Wednesday, the House voted to adopt the Conference Report for the National Defense Authorization Act. I was proud to vote for the House-passed version in July, which put forward a strong and progressive national security strategy that honored all of our troops and defended our borders, the bill before us today fails to achieve these goals. Although this bill has retained some important provisions from July, I couldn’t ignore my concerns with the final legislation and I voted “no.” I could not look past the absence of important provisions that had been included in the House-passed NDAA, but were stripped in the final negotiated bill. Losing these provisions in negotiations is a step backward from important progress we had made. The final bill fails to address bipartisan concerns about the reliance for almost two decades on an Authorization for the Use of Military Force that has been used well beyond its original intent. It strips bipartisan sanctions that had been levied against Saudi officials who bore responsibility for Jamal Khashoggi’s murder. It fails

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to overturn the immoral and dangerous ban on transgender people serving their country. It fails to restrict U.S. support of the Saudi-led campaign in Yemen. And it fails to adequately remediate sites, including military bases, where our water has been contaminated by polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), or designate those substances as hazardous under the Superfund law. I am, however, thrilled to see that Congress has finally adopted paid family leave for all federal employees. This is an historic accomplishment, and one that was long-overdue; one should not have to choose between caring for a newborn or an ailing family member and their career. I am also pleased to see that my amendment, requiring the Defense Department to submit a report on the number of military installations that may have lead service lines, has been included, and that the “widow’s tax,” which penalized Gold Star families, has finally been repealed. I do not take votes on our national security lightly, but the provisions in this bill risk our security and the wellbeing of our troops. I cannot blindly support a bill that does not include so many important priorities.”

Rep. Ocasio-Cortez (NY) (via [Twitter](#)):

“Proud to join [@RepRoKhanna](#) in voting NO on the NDAA. As Ro says, when Pres Obama left, the US defense budget was \$618 BILLION/year. It will now be \$120 billion more than that. No pundits ask how we pay for it, or blast it as “free stuff.” We just accept it. Pay attention.”

Rep. Omar (MN) (via [official statement](#)):

“Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) issued the following statement on the conference report for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA): “At a time when Minnesotans have unmet needs in healthcare, education and housing, it is simply unconscionable to pass a NDAA bill that continues to fund wasteful Pentagon spending to the tune of \$738 billion. This bill commits the U.S. to endless involvement in the Saudi-led war in Yemen, continues funding for endless war under the 2001 AUMF, and does nothing to prevent the Administration from launching a disastrous war with Iran. “Despite its deep flaws, I am glad the National Defense Authorization Act includes some of my priorities and the priorities of my district. I am grateful that all of the amendments I introduced and passed in the House version of the NDAA were included in the final bill. The final version contains my amendments requiring reporting on the process of sharing the Terrorist Screening Database with foreign countries, including human rights abusers. It also requires the Pentagon to provide guidance for contractors and servicemembers who witness gross human rights violations, requires reporting on the costs of overseas military operations, and does not authorize permanent military bases in Somalia—all based on amendments I introduced. Lastly, the final text includes a bill I am an original cosponsor of, the Liberian Immigrant Fairness Act, which would give thousands of Liberians in my district protection from deportation. It was introduced by David Cicilline and originally authored by my predecessor Keith Ellison. “I am proud that all of our amendments were included, but it past time we stop putting our servicemembers and civilians in harm’s way by writing blank checks for

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endless wars—and passing budgets that are not a reflection of our values. For these reasons, I plan to vote no.”

Rep. Pocan (WI) (via [Twitter](#)):

“I did not support the NDAA in July and I did not support it today... At the same time that this administration has cut food stamps, Medicaid and reproductive health services from everyday Americans, this president wants to add more than a hundred billion dollars to continue endless and unauthorized wars, ban transgender troops, keep Guantanamo Bay open, allow the unchecked contamination of water supplies with polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and establish a Space Force... This is the definition of government waste.”

Rep. Pressley (MA) (via [official statement](#)):

“During a time when the Occupant of this White House is engaging in reckless, dangerous and militarized foreign policy, Congress must push back and reaffirm its role as a check on this Administration... The NDAA is an opportunity for Congress to legislate our values and usher a new era of foreign policy centered in peace, justice and human rights. Unfortunately, this NDAA misses the mark. Therefore, I plan to vote no.”

Rep. Schakowsky (IL) (via [official statement](#)):

“However, numerous policy priorities I consider urgent were stripped from the bill by Senate Republicans... The bill no longer ends arms sales to Saudi Arabia, allowing them to continue their brutal campaign in Yemen. The NDAA does nothing to prevent President Trump from starting an unnecessary war with Iran. The terribly outdated 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) in Iraq remains in place. And funding for dangerous low-yield nuclear weapons will continue to flow. Due to these flaws in the legislation, I voted no on this bill.”

Rep. Tlaib (MI) (in floor debate):

“I could not support and cannot support a bill that provides \$738 billion for wars and defense contractors while, this year, we only provided \$190 billion in discretionary funding for healthcare, education, antipoverty programs, and workforce development. After the House took action to end U.S. involvement in the war and humanitarian crisis in Yemen, this NDAA fails to include necessary provisions to end the U.S. support for military action in Yemen. This bill also keeps Guantanamo Bay open, provides for new nuclear warheads, and establishes the absurd Space Force. By removing the House’s repeal of the Iraq war AUMF, we have also agreed to endless war abroad... So I am asking my colleagues to please not rubberstamp this annual increase of the world’s largest military budget. We can do better.”