

Peace Alliance Action Sheet

August, 2017

Your Challenge for August – Bring your voice for peace to your Members of Congress

At least one of these three ways:

1. Find the facebook pages of all three members of your Congressional delegation (two senators and one house member), and post a comment asking for repeal of the 2001 AUMF (Authorization for the Use of Military Force), and supporting creation of a US Department of Peacebuilding (H.R. 1111).
 - a. While you are at it, “like” their pages – so you can keep in closer touch!!
 - b. If you are unsure who your House Member is, you can find out by Googling “who is my representative?”

2. Send a tweet tagging all three members of your Congressional delegation (two senators and one house member), asking for repeal of the 2001 AUMF (Authorization for the Use of Military Force), and supporting creation of a US Department of Peacebuilding (H.R. 1111).
 - a. If you have never tweeted, this could be your opportunity to explore that social network technology!
 - b. The twitter handles of your Congress Members are readily available by searching their names on Twitter, or looking on their websites or facebook pages. (@_____)

3. Find your Congress Members in-person this month, either at a town hall meeting or by arranging to see them in their district/state offices, and request that they give full-throated support for repeal of the 2001 AUMF (Authorization for the Use of Military Force), and supporting creation of a US Department of Peacebuilding (H.R. 1111).
 - a. Most Members of Congress are in their home state/district during August.
 - b. You can find their schedule on their website, to see when and where they will be available for conversation.
 - c. You may be able to even sit down and speak with them in their office, to share how important the priority of peacebuilding is to you (and maybe find out more about them and their relationship to peacebuilding!)

Background: 2001 AUMF and DoP

A bill to create a US Cabinet-Level Department of Peace (now Peacebuilding) was introduced by Congressman Dennis Kucinich in July, 2001 – exactly two months before September 11, 2001.

In the weeks following that pivotal event, Congress passed an “Authorization for the Use of Military Force,” giving the president broad powers to wage war on many fronts without Congressional approval. Since then, the AUMF has been used to justify at least 37 military operations in 14 countries, including not just the war in Iraq, but also the fight against ISIS in Syria and Iraq.

The only Member of Congress to oppose that “blank check for war” was Representative Barbara Lee.

Since 2013, Congresswoman Lee has been the lead sponsor of a bill to Create a US Department of Peacebuilding (currently H.R. 1111). This department would research, articulate, promote, and provide the best available practices to reduce violence, transform conflict, and enhance cooperation – both domestically and internationally.

H.R. 1111 is the bill to build a framework for peacebuilding throughout our lives. It is indeed time for such a deep and broad measure to enhance our chances for healthy evolution. Please let your representatives know!!

This past June, Congresswoman Lee attached an amendment to the House Department of Defense Appropriations bill that would have revoked the 2001 AUMF. A bi-partisan committee approved the amendment, but at the “last minute” House Speaker Paul Ryan stripped the amendment from the bill.

Congresswoman Lee will continue working in Congress to end this outdated and overly broad authorization for the president to wage war. We want Congress to be ready to pass a bill to revoke the 2001 AUMF as soon as they see it!! Please let them know!!