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November 14, 2018

Dear Colleague:

We write to urge you to support a full debate and a vote on U.S. involvement in the war in Yemen. Congress has never authorized the U.S. military's participation in this Saudi-led war, which began under President Obama in 2015 and includes targeting assistance and fueling for airstrikes.

In order to demand a vote on this war, we have introduced the bipartisan H. Con. Res. 138, a privileged resolution introduced pursuant to the War Powers Resolution of 1973. H. Con. Res. 138 would end unauthorized U.S. military involvement in the Saudi-led conflict within 30 days unless this military involvement is approved by Congress. Despite our efforts, the Rules committee has inserted language into the rule for H.R. 6784 that would "de-privilege" our resolution and deny us a vote.

In the wake of the killing of Saudi dissident and American permanent legal resident Jamal Khashoggi, President Trump argued on October 23rd that "there has to be some kind of retribution," and that "I'm going to leave it very much, in conjunction with me, up to Congress." Mr. Khashoggi was a prominent critic of the Saudi-led war in Yemen and had called for its end.

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress alone has the authority to determine whether the United States shall use offensive military force. As James Madison wrote, "In no part of the Constitution is more wisdom to be found than in the clause which confides the question of war or peace to the legislature, and not to the executive department."

We therefore urge you to oppose this rule, which serves only to obstruct our constitutional right to decide questions regarding the use of military force, and tampers with the expedited consideration and privileged status of H. Con. Res. 138. Vote "no" on the rule for H.R. 6784.

Sincerely,



Thomas Massie
Member of Congress



Walter Jones
Member of Congress