



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 1048

Resolution calling upon Congress to adopt the Constitutional Authorities Resolution, H.J. Res. 58, requiring congressional approval for military action in Iran and to withhold any authorization of military force in favor of a diplomatic resolution to current hostilities.

By Council Member Miller

Whereas, Commercial ships and oil tankers recently have been targeted by acts of violence in the Strait of Hormuz near the Iranian coast; and

Whereas, The U.S. Census Bureau's 2017 American Community Survey estimated nearly 25,000 Iranian-Americans have made New York their home; and

Whereas, Military escalations between the United States and Iran in 2019 have frustrated international agreements providing for oversight of Iran's nuclear program by prompting both governments to withdraw from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, resulting in new sanctions from the U.S. Departments of State and Treasury against the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

Whereas, The Council on Foreign Relations has reported that since May of 2019, the Trump Administration has deployed 2,500 troops and increased military resources to the Middle East by calling on allied nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to deploy military assets in the Gulf region; and

Whereas, In 2017, the Department of Defense's Manpower Data Center listed New York state as contributing 20,588 active duty and 28,386 reserve members to the U.S. armed forces; and

Whereas, Armed intervention by the United States would initiate a series of events that would likely endanger thousands of New York City residents, as Operation Iraqi Freedom claimed the lives of 1,597 New

Yorkers according to the Department of Defense; and

Whereas, According to the Department of Defense’s 2017 Defense Spending by State Report, New York County has spent \$534.3 million on military defense contracts, with an additional \$136.4 million in spending contributions deriving from Kings County, Brooklyn; and

Whereas, President Trump has previously called for the peaceful resolution of hostilities with other nations with nuclear ambitions such as the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea; and

Whereas, The President rejected recommendations from Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to partake in diplomatic reconciliation with Iran; and

Whereas, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has cited the 2001 Congressional Authorization for Use of Military Force when discussing ties between Tehran and Al Qaeda to indicate legal authority to engage in war with Iran; and

Whereas, The United States is a signatory to the United Nations Charter, Chapter VI of which governs the maintenance of international peace and security, specifying in Article 33 that all parties to a dispute “shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice” when engaged in hostilities; and

Whereas, Article I of the U.S. Constitution reserves to Congress the power to declare war; and

Whereas, The Constitutional Authorities Resolution, H.J. Res. 58, which was introduced as a joint resolution in Congress by U.S. Representative Seth Moulton, would require congressional approval prior to engaging in hostilities within the sovereign country of Iran; and

Whereas, It is the sense of the Council that a diplomatic resolution to the present situation is in the best interest of the people of the City of New York; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon Congress to adopt the Constitutional Authorities Resolution, H.J. Res. 58, requiring congressional approval for military action in Iran and to

withhold any authorization of military force in favor of a diplomatic resolution to current hostilities.

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