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July 13, 2021

The Honorable Todd Young
United States Senate
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Young:

On behalf of the nearly two million members of The American Legion, I am pleased to express support for S.J.Res.10 - a joint resolution to repeal the authorizations for use of military force (AUMFs) against Iraq.

Congress passed the 1991 and 2002 AUMFs to authorize force against Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime. These AUMFs are no longer relevant. Saddam's regime was overthrown in 2003, and a formal end to the U.S. mission in Iraq was declared at the end of 2011. According to the State Department, Iraq "is now a key partner" in the Middle East.

The vast majority of military actions overseas rely on the 2001 AUMF for approval. In the rare occasions that presidents have cited the 2002 AUMF—like the 2014 airstrikes in Syria or 2020 killing of Qassem Soleimani—it was in combination with other legal authorities. Thus, the 2002 AUMF is legally irrelevant for any modern operations and allowing it to stay on the books allows for future abuse. Too often, the Executive Branch interprets congressional authorizations in a way that maximizes executive power while minimizing congressional responsibility. This is contrary to Congress's constitutional role of deciding when the country goes to war.

In accordance with American Legion Resolution No. 22: *Addressing the 'Forever War'*, which urges a renewal of a proper constitutional balance to American foreign policy decision-making by encouraging Congress to repeal outdated AUMFs, we strongly support this bill.

We applaud your leadership in addressing this critical issue facing our nation's servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

For God & Country,

James W. "Bill" Oxford

James W. "Bill" Oxford
National Commander