



S.J.Res. 68: Divisive, Partisan Messaging on Iran... Again

BOTTOM LINE: OPPOSE

The Kaine resolution would dangerously tie President Trump's hands on Iran in situations short of war, while deliberately ignoring his strategic de-escalation and restraint in recent months.

BACKGROUND

This is all about posturing against the President. It will be the third time in two months that the Democrat majority has staged a divisive Iran debate rather than legislating on critical issues like coronavirus and its economic impacts. It will be the fifth time that they have abused War Powers procedures to direct President Trump to withdraw U.S. forces from wars we are not actually fighting (in Iran and Yemen). This portrays division and a lack of resolve to a dangerous regime that continues to live by the motto, "Death to America."

The Kaine resolution does not just prohibit unauthorized war with Iran. It "directs the President to terminate the use of United Armed Forces for hostilities against... Iran or any part of its government or military," a very broad description that captures situations short of war. Senate backers voted down an amendment that would have ensured that the bill does not prevent the use of force to defend American "citizens, troops, personnel, military bases, and diplomatic facilities from attack," powers claimed by Presidents of both parties under the Commander In Chief powers of Article II.

President Trump has made clear efforts to avoid war and bring Iran back to negotiations, even after Iran's ballistic missile attack on U.S. forces based in Iraq. This is preceded by recent and planned violence against Americans, including the siege of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and death of an American. The Kaine text blatantly ignores that reality, relying on the false premise that the U.S. is currently engaged in hostilities. But as the White House underscored in its veto threat: "The United States is not currently engaged in any use of force against Iran."

OPPOSE: S.J.RES. 68, which:

- ▶ **Claims to tie the President's hands on Iran in situations short of war.**
- ▶ **Ignores President Trump's clear ongoing efforts to avoid war** and bring Iran back to the negotiating table. He has called on NATO and other allies to help us work toward a **responsible, diplomatic de-escalation** in the Middle East.
- ▶ **Abuses the War Powers mechanism** to direct the withdrawal of U.S. forces from actual hostilities, even though the U.S. is not currently engaged in any use of force against Iran.
- ▶ **Continues the Democrat fixation** on the President's successful defensive strike on Qasem Soleimani in Iraq.