

MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3808

December 4, 2014

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The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The NDAA provides the authority to fund many vital national security programs as well as pay for our troops. This is a fundamentally important piece of legislation that Congress has passed for 52 consecutive years, and, while I had some concerns with parts of this year's bill, ensuring our national security programs remain uninterrupted was the reason it received my support.

This NDAA is vital as it comes at a time of military involvement with an enemy abroad. It has been nearly four months since the United States began targeting and bombing Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) forces. Hundreds of U.S. led air attacks have been launched. Over one thousand U.S. troops are stationed on the ground in Iraq. U.S. weaponry and equipment is being provided to Syria resistance forces to battle Bashar al-Assad. Billions of dollars are being spent on this effort.

Included in this year's legislation is language authorizing \$3.4 billion for sustaining these operations and replenishing munitions used in airstrikes against ISIS.

Although this bill authorizes funding, it is not to be interpreted as an Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) against ISIS. To date, your Administration has not asked for, and thus Congress has not provided, specific authorization for the continued engagement of our military forces in Iraq and Syria.

You have indicated that your Administration will be engaging Congress over drafting a new AUMF for the fight against ISIS. I agree with you that we need a new AUMF for this conflict, but we have yet to see your proposal outlining what authorities you believe our military needs. Our nation must act with one clear voice when we put our military in harm's way.

It is imperative that you work with Congress to present an AUMF for this conflict and I respectfully request that you make public your timeline for doing so. Our soldiers and citizens want to know the plan. We cannot wait any longer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Fitzpatrick".

MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress