

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

**JOINT RESOLUTION URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE
UNITED STATES TO REPEAL AND REPLACE OUTDATED
AUTHORIZATIONS OF MILITARY FORCE**

WE, your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Maine now assembled in the First Special Session, most respectfully present and petition the Congress of the United States, as follows:

WHEREAS, nearly 2 decades after the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, United States troops continue to wage war in Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, our service members accomplished their original objectives in Afghanistan long ago, at great psychological, physical and spiritual cost; and

WHEREAS, the war on terrorism, the "forever war" or "endless war" as many call it, has been used as the basis for an ever-expanding range of military actions; and

WHEREAS, James Madison wrote to Thomas Jefferson in 1798, "The constitution supposes, what the History of all Governments demonstrates that the Executive is the branch of power most interested in war It has accordingly with studied care, vested the question of war in the Legislature"; and

WHEREAS, Congress has mostly abdicated its Article I responsibilities to authorize and oversee military actions by extensive, potentially permanent delegations of congressional war powers; and

WHEREAS, the Authorization for Use of Military Force passed after the September 11 attacks has now been in effect for more than twice as long as the 1964-1971 Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which gave President Lyndon B. Johnson authorization, without a formal declaration of war by Congress, for the use of conventional military force in Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense's 2018 National Defense Strategy outlines a scenario where great power competition, rather than counterterrorism, drives the department's decision making and use of force; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of foreign policy officials have begun to advocate for a drawdown in the Middle East and Central Asia because of the opportunity costs to America's mission of balancing its strength against the so-called revisionist powers of China and Russia; and

WHEREAS, the emphasis on bolstering a deterrent posture in Asia and Europe should have an attendant impact that reduces the United States military's activities in the Middle East, Africa and the Western Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, from global pandemics to the support of weak and fragile states, the United States faces an unprecedented number of complex global threats that cannot be solved by military power alone; and

WHEREAS, a disproportionate amount of resources is going to military and intelligence solutions along with a more general sidelining of diplomacy amid a continuing militarization of foreign policy; and

WHEREAS, addressing the root causes of violent conflicts overseas through development and diplomacy helps protect Americans and helps reduce the need to send our service members into harm's way; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the Congress of the United States work to renew a proper constitutional balance in American foreign policy decision making by repealing and replacing outdated authorizations for the use of military force; and be it further

RESOLVED: That We, your Memorialists, advocate for the importance of a civilian-led approach to elevating development and diplomacy along with a strong defense in order to build a better, safer world; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States; the President of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States; and each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.