

the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq—very, very specific.

Now, the administration is arguing that this AUMF from 2002, about Iraq, provides authority to go to war against Iran. It is just like the stretching of the 2001 AUMF that said go after those who harbored the 9/11 terrorists but has been stretched to go after other groups all over the world.

But in both these cases, it was an authorization. Congress did debate. Yes, they have been abused after they were passed, but what there wasn't was an open door without Congress involved.

So we must do our job here and realize the gravity of these conflicts and get the full, extensive information and make sure there is no fake news in that information.

On the Iraq AUMF, this body operated on the solemn guarantee that there were weapons of mass destruction being developed by Iraq. It proved out to be false.

So when we do hold the debate over Iran, let's make sure we get the absolutely honest intelligence, not the spin, not the cherry-picked intelligence, not partial, not selected to drive a conclusion—the honest, fully honest, situation of our activities and their activities and the threats that they pose.

That is the responsibility we have—to make sure that the information we wrestle with is absolutely accurate and then to weigh the heavy cost of different strategies that may or may not involve force before we vote for force. It is a big responsibility, and I have heard Members of this Chamber say: You know what; it is such a tough decision. What if I get it wrong? Let's just let the Executive make that decision. If I misjudge it and don't vote to go to war and, for example, maybe there were those weapons of mass destruction equivalent to Iraq, I don't want to make that mistake, and people back home will not like it if I make that mistake. If I vote to go to war and the information is wrong and the strategy is wrong, well, then, people back home won't like that either.

So let's just ignore the Constitution. Let's just ignore our oath to the Constitution. Let's just let the person down Pennsylvania Avenue do what he wants because we don't like the burden imposed on us by this document that says that issue has to be debated here.

The decision to use force has to be debated and decided here, not there, because it is too big a question to leave to a single individual.

Our Constitution starts out with these words: "We the people." They did not want to create a King. They did not want to create an imperial Presidency that acted like a King. They wanted a nation run of, by, and for the people.

The question of war is our responsibility. We must make the decision here, and that is why I urge my colleagues to take and say yes, we will vote for this S.J. Res. 68 because it says we are demanding the administra-

tion do what the Constitution demands, which is to place the question of going to war with Iran with this body.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The Senator from North Dakota.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the only first-degree amendments in order to S. J. Res. 68 be the following: 1301, 1322, 1305, 1314, 1320, and 1319; I further ask that no second-degree amendments be in order to the amendments listed, with the exception of amendment No. 1319; that the Senate vote in relation to the amendments in the order listed at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow; and that there be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to each vote. Further, I ask unanimous consent that all debate time on S.J. Res. 68 expire at 1:45 p.m. tomorrow, with the last 40 minutes, equally divided, under the control of Senators RISCH, INHOFE, MENENDEZ, and KAIN; and finally, that upon use or yielding back of that time, the joint resolution be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution, as amended, if amended, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NOS. 1301, 1322, 1305, 1314, 1320, AND 1319, EN BLOC

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendments listed be called up by number en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the amendments by number, en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CRAMER], for other Senators, proposes amendments numbered 1301, 1322, 1305, 1314, 1320, and 1319.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1301

(Purpose: To amend the findings)

In section 1, insert after paragraph (3) the following:

(4) Members of the United States Armed Forces and intelligence community, and all those involved in the planning of the January 2, 2020, strike on Qasem Soleimani, including President Donald J. Trump, should be commended for their efforts in a successful mission.

AMENDMENT NO. 1322

(Purpose: To amend the findings)

On page 2, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

(5) More than 100 members of the United States Armed Forces sustained traumatic brain injuries in the Iranian retaliatory attack on the Ain al-Assad air base in Iraq despite initial reports that no casualties were sustained in the attack.

AMENDMENT NO. 1305

(Purpose: To exempt from the termination requirement United States Armed Forces engaged in operations directed at designated terrorist organizations)

On page 4, line 14, insert "except United States Armed Forces engaged in operations

directed at entities designated as foreign terrorist organizations under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189)," after "or military,".

AMENDMENT NO. 1314

(Purpose: To amend the findings)

On page 1, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

(2) The President has a constitutional responsibility to take actions to defend the United States, its territories, possessions, citizens, service members, and diplomats from attack.

AMENDMENT NO. 1320

(Purpose: To amend the findings)

In section 1, strike paragraph (6) and insert the following:

(6) The United States Armed Forces are not currently engaged in hostilities, as contemplated by the War Powers Resolution, against Iran. The United States strike against terrorist leader Qasem Soleimani to protect the lives of United States service members and diplomats is lesser in scope, nature, and duration than, and consistent with, previous administrations' exercises of war powers.

(7) The United States' maximum pressure strategy against Iran has reduced the Government of Iran's resources available to attack the United States and United States interests by limiting the resources available to the Government of Iran to support weapons development and terrorist proxies throughout the region.

AMENDMENT NO. 1319

(Purpose: To amend the rule of construction)

In section 2, amend subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

(1) to prevent the United States from defending itself, including its territories, citizens, troops, personnel, military bases, and diplomatic facilities from attack, including acting to prevent an attack; or

(2) to restrict missions related to force protection of United States aircraft, ships, or personnel.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, since first emerging in Wuhan, China, on December 31, the outbreak of a new coronavirus, COVID-19, "novel coronavirus", has spread to 25 countries, infected more than 44,000 people, caused at least 1,100 deaths, forced entire cities into lockdown, triggered hundreds of international flight cancellations, restricted hundreds of Americans to U.S. military bases in Federal Government quarantine, and caused significant economic harm to countries and businesses around the globe, all this in only 6 weeks, with no end in sight.

The virus has infected and killed more people and has done so faster