

HM 1121

2021

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
3 urging Congress to repeal the 2001 Authorization for
4 Use of Military Force, to end the war in Afghanistan,
5 and to bring our troops home.
6

7 WHEREAS, Article I of the United States Constitution
8 charges Congress with the power and responsibility of declaring
9 war, and

10 WHEREAS, our Founding Fathers understood the importance of
11 vesting decisions about war in the legislative branch, as it
12 represents the people who will bear the costs of conflict, and

13 WHEREAS, James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution,"
14 wrote to Thomas Jefferson in 1798 "that the Executive is the
15 branch of power most interested in war, and most prone to it. It
16 has accordingly with studied care vested the question of war to
17 the Legislature," and

18 WHEREAS, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001,
19 justified a response by the United States in order to bring the
20 perpetrators to justice, to decimate Al-Qaeda, and to severely
21 punish the Taliban, and

22 WHEREAS, though our military accomplished these principal
23 strategic objectives through their valiant sacrifices years ago,
24 the United States' continued nation-building attempts in

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25 | Afghanistan has since resulted in the longest war in American
26 | history, and

27 | WHEREAS, the war in Afghanistan has now been going on long
28 | enough that the children of our first deployed United States
29 | Armed Forces can now join the military and be deployed to the
30 | same war zone where their parents were deployed, and

31 | WHEREAS, fewer than one-fifth of current members of
32 | Congress voted on the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military
33 | Force (AUMF), and

34 | WHEREAS, due to its broad and unspecific language, the 2001
35 | AUMF has been invoked over 41 times to deploy United States
36 | Armed Forces to over 19 countries since 2001, which is far
37 | beyond the intended scope of its drafters, and

38 | WHEREAS, the decision to put United States troops in harms'
39 | way is among the most important votes cast by a legislator, and

40 | WHEREAS, Florida is home to 21 military bases, with an
41 | estimated 68,000 active duty servicemembers and over 1.5 million
42 | veterans, and

43 | WHEREAS, the wars following September 11, 2001, have
44 | carried a heavy price, including more than 7,000 service members
45 | lives lost, over 53,000 wounded, an estimated 1.1 million
46 | veterans who have developed service-related disabilities, and
47 | over \$6.4 trillion in spending, and

48 | WHEREAS, the costs of these open-ended conflicts include an
49 | increase in post-traumatic stress disorder, faced by veterans

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50 | deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, and veterans' suicides which
 51 | have increased to approximately 17 deaths per day, and

52 | WHEREAS, nearly 70 percent of Americans support bringing
 53 | our troops home from Afghanistan according to 2020 polling by
 54 | YouGov and the Charles Koch Institute, and over 73 percent of
 55 | veterans favor withdrawal, according to 2020 polling by
 56 | Concerned Veterans for America, NOW, THEREFORE,

57 |
 58 | Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

59 |
 60 | (1) That the Congress and the President of the United
 61 | States are urged to repeal the 2001 Authorization for Use of
 62 | Military Force and to ensure that any future authorizations for
 63 | the use of military force include country-specific and mission-
 64 | specific language, and automatic sunsets to require periodic
 65 | review, debate, and approval votes.

66 | (2) That the President of the United States is urged to
 67 | continue to follow through on the progress made since February
 68 | 2020 toward a full withdrawal from Afghanistan and to bring
 69 | endless wars to a conclusion.

70 | (3) That the Florida Legislature reaffirms its support and
 71 | pride in the United States Armed Forces who have sworn to
 72 | protect and defend our nation's freedom and prosperity.

73 |
 74 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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75 | dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
76 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
77 | United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
78 | the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.