Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 13, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you as a bipartisan group of colleagues with a shared concern, as we did with the prior administration in 2013, and again in a letter to you last May. We strongly urge you to consult and receive authorization from Congress before ordering additional use of U.S. military force in Syria. Your responsibility to do so is prescribed in the Constitution and the War Powers Resolution of 1973.

While the Founders wisely gave the Office of the President the authority to act in emergencies, they foresaw the need to ensure public debate — and the active engagement of Congress — prior to committing U.S. military assets. Engaging our military in Syria when no direct threat to the United States exists and without prior congressional authorization would violate the separation of powers that is clearly delineated in the Constitution.

We stand ready to consider the facts before us and share the burden of decisions made regarding U.S. involvement in the quickly escalating Syrian conflict.

Sincerely,

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