



Massachusetts Peace Action  
1991 Massachusetts Ave.  
Cambridge, MA 02140  
masspeaceaction.org - @masspeaceaction

July 7, 2026

Senator Ed Markey  
975 JFK Federal Building  
15 New Sudbury St  
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Senator Markey,

We, the undersigned organizations, call on Members of Congress to (i) cease funding military action against Iran, (ii) immediately halt all weapon transfers to Israel, and (iii) call for independent investigations and accountability for war crimes, including [the killing of 120 schoolchildren in Minab](#) by a double-tap strike that directly targeted an elementary school. This illegal war and the disregard for civilian life and international law demand immediate legislative intervention.

### **A reckless and unprovoked war**

The U.S. and Israel attacked Iran while the U.S. and Iran were in the midst of negotiations over Iran's nuclear program. The attack was launched despite consistent assessments by the U.S. intelligence community that Iran was not currently undertaking the development or weaponization activities required to build a nuclear weapon, and it occurred without any authorization from Congress. From the moment it began, Trump's war with Iran violated the U.S. Constitution and the UN Charter.

Throughout the ensuing conflict, President Trump has made reckless statements threatening the destruction of Iranian civilian infrastructure - indeed, of Iranian civilization itself. Furthermore, the United States maintains a naval blockade of Iranian ports in international waters—an act of war it instated after Iran agreed to a ceasefire. These actions do not serve the interests of peace or global stability.

At the same time, U.S. and Israeli strikes on civilian infrastructure, including oil depots have led to devastating health and environmental costs to Iranian civilians. Strikes on pharmaceutical and medical facilities, key to the provision of medicines and vaccines in Iran, has endangered patients and created a long-term humanitarian crisis. A [Bloomberg News](#) analysis estimated that over two-thirds of buildings hit in Tehran were civilian targets.

### **Regional conflagration and humanitarian crises**

Simultaneously, the regional conflict has resulted in devastating humanitarian consequences that continue to tarnish America's standing in the Middle East and across the globe. In Lebanon, Israel's scorched-earth war has destroyed much of south Lebanon, deliberately demolished entire villages and thousands of acres of productive land, and claimed over 3000 lives. Despite the announcement of a ceasefire on April 8, Israel has continued its relentless bombing of south Lebanon and Beirut, killing over 600, and continues to issue forced displacement orders for large segments of the population, aimed at ethnically cleansing Shiite Muslims.

In Gaza, Israel continues to block the entry of aid and supplies and regularly carries out airstrikes against civilians, despite a purported ceasefire. As a result, malnutrition and skin infections are skyrocketing amongst children, who are surviving yet another year without proper shelter or education. On May 17, Israel targeted a [charity kitchen](#), killing three aid workers, bringing the number of those killed in Israeli strikes since the “ceasefire” to 871. Prominent [Israeli](#) and international human rights organizations confirm the genocide in Gaza is ongoing.

### **Economic Cost**

Not only is this illegal war slaughtering innocent Iranians, exacerbating regional turmoil, and further damaging America's credibility on the world stage, it is also hurting ordinary Americans and the US economy. The war on Iran is straining the finances of American families and destabilizing the world economy. As the national debt surpasses GDP for the first time since WWII, the enormous cost of this war - [over \\$85 billion by some estimates](#) - mounts with each passing day. Already facing an affordability crisis, Americans bear the

burden of [the increased cost](#) of gasoline, diesel, fertilizers, and other products they rely on in their daily lives.

Constituents across the political spectrum have become weary of lawmakers who claim healthcare expansion, student loan forgiveness, housing, and food assistance are unaffordable, while somehow always being able to find tens of billions of dollars for senseless wars of choice.

### **Legislative action**

To prevent further escalation and ensure the lawful use of taxpayer dollars, we urge our Members of Congress to support the following critical legislation, and we urge Senators to file comparable legislation:

- [H.R.8707 - No Funds for Iran War Act](#), introduced by Rep. Pat Ryan, which prohibits the use of taxpayer dollars for military action against Iran in the absence of an Authorization of Use of Military Force or an official declaration of war.
- [H.R.8592 - No WAR Act](#), introduced by Rep. Val Hoyle, which aims to prevent funding military actions in Iran through budget reconciliation without a transparent up-or-down vote.
- [H.R. 3565 - Block the Bombs Act](#), introduced by Reps Ramirez, Jacobs, Jayapal, and Pocan, which prohibits the transfer of offensive munitions to Israel—including bunker-busters and 155mm artillery—unless authorized by Congress with written assurances of compliance with international law.
- [H.Con.Res.108, Lebanon War Powers Resolution](#), introduced by Rep. Rashida Tlaib, which aims to end unauthorized U.S. military involvement in Lebanon.

Our tax dollars should not be used to fund unconstitutional wars or slaughter innocents. We urge Congress to represent the will of the American people by voting to prioritize diplomacy and humanitarian law over further military entanglement.

### **Signed**

Massachusetts Peace Action  
Arlington United for Justice and Peace  
Beautiful Lotus in a Sea of Fire Sangha  
Berkshire Democratic Brigades  
Better Future Project  
Boston Democratic Socialists of America

Boston May Day Coalition  
Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security  
Center for Nonviolent Solutions  
Committee for Peace and Human Rights  
Community Alliance for Peace and Justice (CAPJ)  
The Community Church of Boston  
Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution  
Green-Rainbow Party  
House of Peace (Ipswich)  
Human Rights Awareness:Palestine Israel/MA 3rd CD (HRA:PI/CD3)  
IfNotNow Boston  
Interlink Publishing  
Jamaica Plain Progressives  
Jewish Voice for Peace  
Liberation Road-Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Muslims for Justice  
Military Families Speak Out  
MTA Rank and File for Palestine  
Nashoba Indivisible  
National Lawyers Guild-Massachusetts Chapter  
New England Joint Board - Unite Here  
New England Peace Pagoda  
Newton Dialogues on Peace and War  
North American Indian Center of Boston  
North Shore Friends Monthly Meeting (Quakers)  
Our Revolution MA  
Pax Christi Massachusetts  
Progressive Democrats of America Massachusetts Chapter  
Raising Luminaries  
River Valley for Palestine  
Saints Francis and Therese Catholic Worker  
SEIU Local 509  
Social Justice Ministries Council, HUUC, Harvard (town of) UU Church  
Southeastern MA Coalition for a Free Palestine  
United American Indians of New England  
V'ahavtah: A Judaism Beyond Zionism Synagogue  
Veterans for Peace Ch. 45  
Wakefield for Justice and Peace

Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice and the Environment  
Wellfleet for Palestine

**National Organizations**

Action Corps

CODEPINK

Doctors Against Genocide

Historians for Peace and Democracy (H-PAD)

National Iranian American Council

Progressive Democrats of America

Veterans for Peace

**Other States**

Baltimore, MD Phil Berrigan Memorial Chapter Veterans For Peace

Brooklyn for Peace