

Chairman Risch Remarks on War Powers Resolution
March 4, 2026

Mr. President, I rise today to oppose a resolution that my Democrat friends have brought here to the floor. It is very short, only a few pages long, but the operative part of it is only 18 words.

It's on page three. And it says, Congress hereby directs the president to remove the United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Iran.

Real simple.

They're telling the president he must stop and remove our troops from the conflict that we're currently involved in.

It's important to remember what we're doing here and what the Democrats are trying to do here.

I'm going to talk about two different parts.

One is the War Powers Act and the Constitution.

We've all sat through hundreds of hours of argument on this.

I'm not gonna spend a lot of time with it.

The second part is how we got here, where we are, and where we're going—a little more interesting, I think.

In any event, as far as the War Powers Act, it was enacted in 1973 by Congress. It was designed to try to cut into the constitutional powers of the president under Article II of the Constitution.

Every single president, every one of these since then, Democrat and Republican, has refused to say that the War Powers Act is constitutional. They have always said that it infringes on the president's Article II constitutional authorities to defend the American people, and to complete the oath they've taken to defend the country.

So, 45 of the last 47 presidents, which is all we've had, have ordered kinetic acts just like President Trump has done without going to Congress.

This isn't new.

This has happened in 45 of the last 47 presidencies.

The Constitution, Article II, clearly gives the president not only the right, but, indeed, the duty, as does his oath, to protect the United States.

Having said all this, the claim is that what the president did is illegal.

Well, if that's what they really believe over here, then what are we doing here?

All we're doing is yakking here. What they should do is go across the street to the court and file suit if it's illegal, and stop it.

They sue him three times every day before breakfast. What difference does one more lawsuit make?

That's what they should do.

That's the remedy if they think it's illegal.

Now, more interesting.

Three parts of this.

How do we get here?

Where are we in this moment, and where do we go from here?

47 years ago, this started.

What you had was the Iranians take over our embassy in Iran, and they illegally held and kidnapped, and restrained our diplomats there for 444 days.

At that point in time, 47 years ago, there were two sides.

There were two sides. On one side—the United States and Israel. And on the other side was Iran and all other actors in the region, the Arab countries that surround them.

That was the difference from where things were then, compared to where they are today.

What's happened over the last 47 years is the Arab countries have gotten tired of this. They're sick and tired of this.

And so where are we today?

We are at the point today where you have only one bad apple left in the region, and that's Iran.

And, of course, the proxies—the 3 Hs— Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis, all of whom are actually just part of Iran.

When Iran is defeated, and they will be here, the three Hs are gone, too.

Hezbollah has been badly decimated already.

The other two— Hamas, has been almost decimated completely, and Houthis are still around. But all three of those are going to be gone when, indeed, Iran is defeated, which it will be here before very long.

So over these 47 years, what Iran has done, while the Arab countries have moved away and moved towards peace and security in the region, they have continued to murder thousands of Americans.

They have killed thousands of Americans.

It would take me about half an hour to read all of the sins that the Iranians have committed over these 47 years.

So, we're left in a very, very different place today.

The Arab countries want nothing to do with this, and we're going to deal with a different Middle East than what we have today.

Today, I am more optimistic than I have ever been about the Middle East.

I really believe that when we end this, and the Iranian regime is brought down, we are going to have a Middle East that is going to be very peaceful, and it's going to be a different Middle East as we go forward.

The people will look back at this and say, when did this happen?

I think the turning point was the Abraham Accords. But in addition to that, it has happened in other respects also.

You say, well, what evidence do you have of that?

You know, during Hamas' War between Israel and Hamas, the Iranians decided, one day to launch 300 missiles against Israel.

None of those landed, none of those did any damage because of the overhead defense they had, but also you had Israeli pilots, U.S. pilots, British pilots, and French pilots flying to protect Israel and take out these missiles.

That's not the big news.

On that same night, the big news is that two Arab countries were also flying.

Jordan and the Saudis were flying to protect Israel from the onslaught of missiles from Iran.

That is clear evidence that the Middle East has changed.

It is a different place today, and it's continuing to be a better place since this most recent war broke out.

The Arab countries have decided to side with us and side against Iran.

Iran is all by itself. Iran's decimated.

That's where we are at this moment.

Their navy's at the bottom of the sea.

Their air force is nonexistent.

Yesterday, a Yak-130 took off in Iran and it lasted just moments in the air before it was taken out by one of our F-35s.

They're done, they're through.

Their missiles, and their drone stockpiles are dwindling and dwindling badly.

The strikes are becoming less and less frequent that they're able to put out there.

And this is gonna end, and it's gonna end rapidly.

This is not a forever war, indeed not even close to it.

This is gonna end very quickly.

The Commander in Chief ordered this attack because of Iran's increase in the manufacturing of long and medium range missiles, and after Iran tried to restart the nuclear program that was decimated in the 12-day war.

And all this time, they had us sitting at the table, dragging things out, and yakking away at negotiations that were going absolutely nowhere.

For that reason, the President ordered our young men and women to do what they're doing today.

The message to the regime that I would have today for them, is that no one is coming to help.

I said that before the 12-day war and I was right.

Today, the same is true.

China's not coming. Russia's not coming. North Korea's not coming. Cuba's not coming. Venezuela's not coming. They are not coming to help you, Iran.

No one is coming, but there is one entity left that is trying to help you, Iranian regime. Only one on this planet.

And that's my Democratic friends over here.

They're trying to use the process of the United States Senate to stop our Commander in Chief from doing what he has set out to do.

No other entity on the planet is attempting to help you, Iran.

Nobody except one.

But we're going to end that now. It ends now. It ends here in a few moments when we have this vote.

To our brave men and women, I say, you're fighting to accomplish the task and the objectives that the President, our Commander in Chief, has given you.

We are proud of you.

We are about to help you.

Know this—we have your back.

We are about to defeat here, on this floor, the last entity that is trying to stop you from doing the job that the President of the United States has given you.

Bless you for what you're doing and bless the United States of America.

These remarks have been lightly edited for clarity.