

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson,

We write to respectfully urge you to cancel next week's scheduled recess and keep the House of Representatives in session in light of rapidly developing events in the Middle East and the need for Congress to remain flexible and responsive as it carries out its oversight duties.

As you know, the United States and Israel have recently conducted coordinated military strikes against Iranian targets. Iran has launched significant retaliatory attacks, not only targeting military assets of the U.S., Israel, and partner nations, but also diplomatic and civilian areas throughout the region. The attacks have resulted in heightened threat assessments around the globe as well as multiple deaths, including the tragic loss of six U.S. service members. At this sensitive time, we believe it is in the best interest of our constituents if we remain in session as events continue to develop.

The Constitution vests Congress with the sole authority to declare war, and the American people expect us to conduct thorough oversight of the Executive Branch's military operations. Our authority has not and must not be delegated in absentia. Not only should the House join the Senate and remain in session next week, but the committees of jurisdiction with oversight authority over our nation's foreign policy, national security, and military operations should be meeting regularly. We were very concerned that a House Foreign Affairs Committee Markup scheduled for March 4, 2026, was canceled just 24 hours before it was set to begin. Such meetings allow our legislative body to debate legislative proposals, conduct oversight over past actions, and fulfill the duties we were elected to carry out.

By the President's own admission, current military operations against Iran could be sustained for weeks. The rapid developments of such an operation, and its potential impact here at home, require a firm commitment to legislative engagement. If the House of Representatives is absent during such a pivotal moment in our foreign policy, we will be failing our constituents. We urge you to cancel next week's recess so that we may fulfill our oversight duty.

Sincerely,



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Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



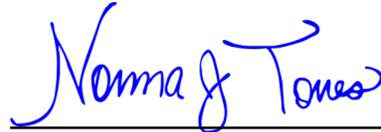
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



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Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



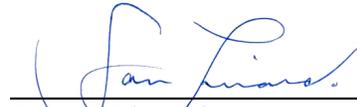
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Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



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Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



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Sam T. Liccardo  
Member of Congress