

# Middle East Network Newsletter – **Action Alert**

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February 27, 2012

Use Your Words, Not Your Bombs

Tell Congress to Support Diplomacy to Prevent Nuclear Proliferation and War with Iran [Take Action!](#)

In a February 19 [interview](#), Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Martin Dempsey, stated, “I think it would be premature to exclusively decide that the time for a military option was upon us.” Defense Secretary [Leon Panetta](#) warned back in December, that an attack on Iran, “could consume the Middle East in a confrontation and a conflict that we would regret.”

Such sober judgments from U.S. officials need to be heard and heeded as talk of a potential preemptive military strike on Iran grows louder. It is urgent that Members of Congress hear from their constituents who believe diplomacy, not war, is the way to resolve the issue of Iran’s nuclear program.

In the House, a helpful letter is circulating that needs your support, and in the Senate, a dangerous resolution is gaining momentum and needs to be stopped.

[An important bi-partisan letter](#) introduced by Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) and Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC) calls on the Administration to pursue diplomacy with Iran, saying, “As tension with Iran continues to escalate, we urge your Administration to utilize all available tools of diplomacy to resolve the crisis over Iran’s nuclear program and prevent another costly war in the Middle East.” The letter concludes, “We strongly encourage your Administration to pursue bilateral and multilateral engagement with Iran. While we acknowledge that progress will be difficult, we believe that robust, sustained diplomacy is the best option to resolve our serious concerns about Iran’s nuclear program, and to prevent a costly war that would be devastating for the United States and our allies in the region.”

Take Action: Ask your Representative to sign on to the Ellison-Jones letter by March 1 in support of diplomacy to prevent nuclear proliferation and war with Iran.

A dangerous resolution on Iran, [S. Res. 380](#), is making its way through the Senate. The resolution, introduced by Sen. Graham (R-SC) and 35 cosponsors, is problematic for a number of reasons including language suggesting that Iranian “nuclear weapons capability” is a red line that would trigger U.S. military action against Iran. For more on the problems with S. Res. 380 see the [analysis](#) by Lara Friedman of Americans for Peace Now.

Take Action: Tell your Senators to oppose S. Res. 380 and to support diplomacy as the best way to prevent nuclear proliferation and war with Iran.

Support the Ellison-Jones letter and oppose S. Res. 380 to send a message to Congress and the Administration: Utilize all available tools of diplomacy to resolve the issue of Iran’s nuclear program and prevent another war in the Middle East.



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