March 22, 2021

Chairman                               Ranking Member
House Rules Committee                  House Rules Committee
370 Cannon House Office Building       2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515                   Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McGovern and Ranking Member Cole:

Thank you for organizing the hearing on *Reforming the War Powers Resolution for the 21st Century*, scheduled for March 23, 2021. We appreciate the committee’s commitment to exploring the challenges Congress has faced in implementing the 1973 War Powers Resolution, and how it may be possible for Congress to reassert its authority on matters of war and peace. We believe strongly in the need for the people’s representatives to regain their proper Constitutional role on this critical issue.

We appreciate the collegial approach that you and the other members of the committee are taking to this hearing and the underlying issues. It is especially encouraging to witness the members of this committee come together to promote the modernization of the War Powers Resolution in a substantive and bipartisan manner.

Many of us signed a statement of principles (attached) from 20 organizations across a wide spectrum of perspectives, calling on Congress to restore the balance of national security powers, including war powers, between the legislative and executive branches of government. We are committed to working with you to build on the momentum created by this hearing, and to pursuing the reforms we hope will follow.

Sincerely,

Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law
Center for Civilians in Conflict
Common Defense
Concerned Veterans for America
Demand Progress
Foreign Policy for America
Friends Committee on National Legislation
International Crisis Group
Niskanen Center
Open Society Policy Center
Project on Government Oversight
Protect Democracy
Public Citizen
Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft
R Street Institute
VoteVets
Win Without War