



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

December 16, 2025
(House)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.Con.Res. 61 – A Concurrent Resolution Directing the President to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities with presidentially designated terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere.

(Rep. Meeks, D-NY, and 40 cosponsors)

The Administration strongly opposes passage of H.Con.Res. 61, a concurrent resolution that would direct the removal United States Armed Forces from hostilities with presidentially designated terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere.

Although concurrent resolutions like H.Con.Res. 61 lack the force of law and should be deemed unconstitutional legislative vetoes under controlling Supreme Court precedent, I.N.S. v. Chadha, 462 U.S. 919 (1983), it is nevertheless important to highlight some of its deficiencies.

H.Con. Res. 61 fails to account for the extraordinary national security threat posed by transnational violent drug trafficking cartels and narco-terrorists operating in and around the Caribbean Sea. For decades, the response to the flow of illicit narcotics into the United States has primarily relied on the use of law enforcement authorities. These efforts have been ineffective in stemming the tide of these addictive and lethal drugs. The cartels involved have grown more armed, well-organized, and violent. They have the financial means, sophistication, and paramilitary capabilities needed to operate with impunity. The challenge posed by the current iteration of these groups require a different approach.

These groups illegally and directly cause the deaths of tens of thousands of American citizens each year. Although regional partners have made significant efforts to combat these organizations, suffering significant losses of life, these groups are now transnational and conduct ongoing attacks throughout the Western Hemisphere as organized cartels. Therefore, the President determined these cartels are non-state armed groups, designated them as terrorist organizations, and determined that their actions constitute an armed attack against the United States and its allies.

In response, based upon the cumulative effects of these hostile acts against the citizens and interests of the United States and friendly foreign nations, the President recognized that the United States is in a non-international armed conflict with these designated terrorist organizations. The President directed the Department of War to conduct operations against them pursuant to the law of armed conflict. The United States has now reached a critical point where we must use force in self-defense and defense of others against the ongoing attacks by these designated terrorist organizations.

H.Con.Res. 61 should be rejected as it fails to recognize the imminent national security threats posed by violent drug-trafficking cartels operating in and around the Caribbean Sea. It also purports to limit the President's Article II authority under the Constitution, as Commander in Chief, to protect the United States from the threats of narco-terrorist organizations.

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