

October 18, 2021

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee

The Honorable James Inhofe  
Ranking Member, Senate Armed Service Committee

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee

The Honorable Mike Rogers  
Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee

Dear Chairman Reed, Ranking Member Inhofe, Chairman Smith, and Ranking Member Rogers,

We write representing a broad coalition of humanitarian, peacebuilding, faith-based, and other civil society organizations deeply concerned for the health and well-being of people in heavily-sanctioned locations around the world. While U.S. sanctions have increased in scope and quantity, the U.S. government does not currently assess their humanitarian impacts or their ability to achieve foreign policy objectives. For this reason, we urge you to support [Amendment #152](#) to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which will initiate these overdue assessments.

Our organizations support this amendment in the House version of the FY 2022 NDAA as it directs the Government Accountability Office to conduct an impartial assessment of the impact of U.S. sanctions on civilian populations as well as sanctions' effectiveness in achieving U.S. foreign policy goals. NDAA Amendment #152, introduced by Representative Jesus "Chuy" García, was approved as part of an en bloc package.

Earlier this year, over 55 organizations [called on](#) the Biden administration to review the impact of sanctions on COVID-19 relief and issue necessary legal reforms to ensure sanctions do not harm ordinary civilians. Forty-six organizations raised similar concerns in [a recent letter](#) to President Biden and other key leaders in the administration.

Impact assessments provide valuable information to ensure that U.S. foreign policy advances U.S. interests while protecting innocent civilians and maintaining channels for humanitarian organizations to continue their work. This issue is even more important as populations around the globe continue to manage the shared threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. We ask that you support Amendment #152 and ensure that the provisions in this amendment be retained throughout the conferencing process.

We appreciate your consideration, and would also be happy to schedule a meeting with staff working on this issue to give insight about how the provisions in this amendment are crucial to our work.

Sincerely,

American Friends Service Committee  
Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security  
Center for Economic and Policy Research  
Charity and Security Network  
CODEPINK  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces  
Demand Progress  
Disciples Center for Public Witness  
Educators' Institute for Human Rights (EIHR)  
The Episcopal Church  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ  
Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space  
Good Friends USA  
Join Together Society America  
Korean American Public Action Committee (KAPAC)  
Korean Association of the United Methodist Church, Peace Committee  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
MADRE  
Marin Interfaith Task Force on the Americas  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.  
Miaan Group  
Minnesota Peace Project  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Council of Churches USA  
National Iranian American Council Action  
National Lawyers Guild  
Nicaragua Center for Community Action  
Nonviolent Peaceforce  
Peace Action  
Peace Corps Iran Association  
Peace Direct  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Presbyterian Peace Network for Korea  
Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft  
RootsAction.org  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society  
United for Peace and Justice  
Veterans For Peace  
Win Without War  
Women Cross DMZ  
Women's Action for New Directions (WAND)  
World Beyond War