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Dear Sumud community,

As a Church, the love of our neighbor is a core teaching that obligates us to act to prevent wars and to seek alternatives to them. ELCA social teaching affirms *"that governments should vigorously pursue less coercive measures over more coercive ones: consent over compulsion, nonviolence over violence, diplomacy over military engagement, and deterrence over war."* (ELCA social statement For Peace in God's World, p. 10).

The Iran War Powers Resolution (S.J.Res.118), which mandates congressional approval and use of constitutional power to ensure that our government is engaging constructively in matters of war, peace and the common good, may come to the Senate floor for a vote **as soon as tonight**. Ultimately, the U.S. Constitution

mandates that Congress approve or disapprove before the U.S. begins a new war. It is of immense importance that this constitutional power vested in Congress is not infringed upon by the Executive Branch.

There are more than two thousand civilian casualties to date from this war across the Middle East region, thirteen American service members killed and 200 injured. In the meantime, focus is pulled away from Gaza, where violence continues unabated, aid is completely blocked, and in the West Bank where settler violence, economic despair, and land annexation have increased.

Please call your Senator using the following script or with your own words and urge them to vote YES to S.J. Res. 118.

[Find Your Senators Here](#)

## SCRIPT

“Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am from [township], [state]. I am calling to urge the Senator to vote YES to Senate Joint Resolution 118. As an ELCA Lutheran, I believe that governments should vigorously pursue less coercive measures over more coercive ones: consent over compulsion, nonviolence over violence, diplomacy over military engagement, and deterrence over war, as is stated in our social statements. As an American, I furthermore am deeply troubled that our country began a war without consulting Congress, as is mandated in our Constitution.

This war has created civilian casualties in the thousands and has already claimed the lives of thirteen fellow American service members. The constitutionality of this war is paramount when risking the lives of Americans and the lives of many innocent people in the Middle East region.

I hope the Senator votes YES when this Resolution comes to a vote in the near future.

Thank you for your time.”

[Click Here to read Bishop Curry's Statement on the Iran War](#)



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