

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 21, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

President Trump and Secretary Hegseth,

We write about the significant cost of the ongoing war between the U.S. and Iran. What was billed as a two-week operation is now a full-scale war that has lasted for over 150 days, cost over \$37 billion,¹ and claimed the lives of 18 servicemembers. At the same time, prices across the country have gone up significantly, placing the burden of this conflict on American families. By June 9, you had claimed that the war in Iran was almost over 38 times.² Instead, the war has continued, leaving Americans across the country with no idea when this war will come to an end and when prices will come down. This uncertainty, and the months of higher costs, have taken a toll, impacting Americans' ability to budget, plan, and save for the future. These costs are untenable, and the American people deserve better.

Since the war started, everything from food to gas to medicine has become more expensive. Experts say that if gas prices remain at or above \$4 per gallon, as is expected, American families will spend at least \$90 billion³ more at the gas pump this year. This, coupled with the 4.2% increase in food prices over last year,⁴ the increased prices of consumer goods due to the ongoing blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, and the already high prices caused by tariffs, has put significant financial strain on Americans across the country. Despite your insistence that prices will "come crashing down" after the war in Iran is over, experts warn that consumers won't see relief for months, as production facilities rebuild and ships travel to their destinations. This has forced families to make compromises to afford basic necessities or dip into emergency funds to make ends meet.

While the American people are struggling, Director of the United States Office of Management and Budget Russ Vought has asked Congress for an \$88 billion supplemental budget request, writing that "most of this request will address urgent needs related to Operation Epic Fury".⁵ More will be needed to replenish the stockpiles we have wasted on this war of choice. It is unconscionable that the Administration is asking for more to fund the very thing that is raising costs for Americans. The Administration should be focused on ending the conflict and addressing

¹ [A Review of the President's Supplemental Funding Request of June 24, 2026](#), Question from Sen. Dick Durbin during Senate Appropriations Committee Hearing on July 21, 2026

² [How many times has Trump claimed an Iran deal is around the corner?](#), CNN, June 9, 2026

³ [Americans Spent \\$125 Million More on Gas Friday Than They Did a Week Ago](#), Wall Street Journal, May 1, 2026

⁴ [Food Price Outlook, 2026](#), USDA, June 25, 2026

⁵ [White House letter to Speaker Mike Johnson, June 24, 2026](#)

the very real financial concerns of the American public. But when asked if he is weighing Americans' financial situations as he considers whether to make a deal with Iran, President Trump responded "not even a little bit....I don't think about Americans' financial situations." This is appalling and unacceptable.

We demand that you provide the American people with a public, comprehensive assessment of the full economic impact of this war no later than September 11, 2026. This accounting must go beyond simple Pentagon spending and should include:

1. All Department of Defense operational costs, including:
 - a. Personnel costs
 - b. Operation and maintenance costs
 - c. Procurement costs
 - d. Contractor support costs
 - e. Readiness and sustainment costs
2. Oil and energy market effects, including:
 - a. Impact on global oil supply and shipping
 - b. Strategic Petroleum Reserve usage and replacement costs
 - c. Estimated gasoline and diesel price increases
 - d. Effects on electricity and industrial energy costs
3. Macroeconomic impact assessment, including:
 - a. Effects on GDP growth
 - b. Inflation impacts
 - c. Supply chain disruptions
 - d. Consumer price impacts
 - e. Effects on employment and wages
 - f. Effects on investment and capital markets

We expect this assessment to also include economic and inflation assumptions, forecasting models, and confidence assessments, so that the American people can anticipate how long they will be shouldering the costs of your war of choice.

Americans did not ask for this war, and they cannot afford it. They do not have the luxury of ignoring their financial situation, and you shouldn't either.

Sincerely,



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



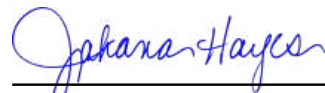
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Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



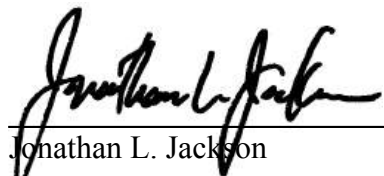
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



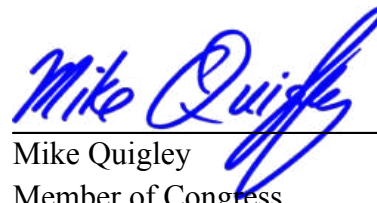
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



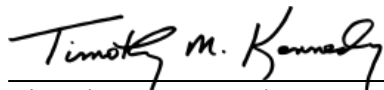
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Jonathan L. Jackson
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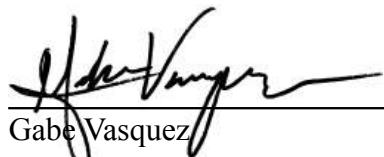
Mike Quigley
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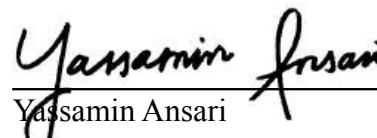
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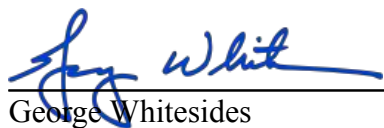
Debbie Dingell
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Gabe Vasquez
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Yassamin Ansari
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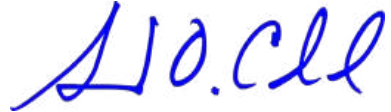
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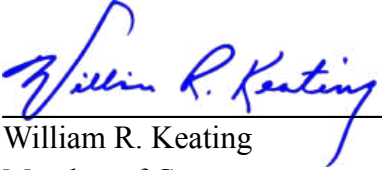
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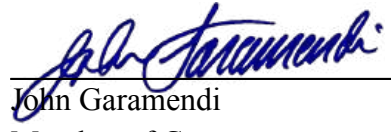
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



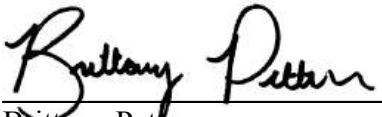
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John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
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Seth Moulton
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Greg Stanton
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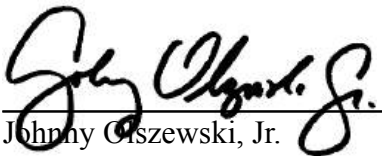
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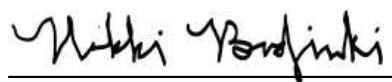
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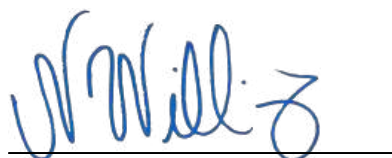
Bill Foster
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Andrea Salinas
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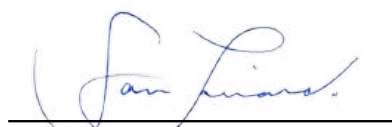
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Pablo José Hernández
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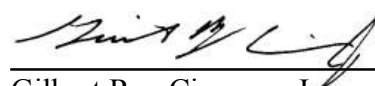
Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress



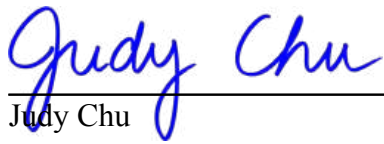
Suhas Subramanyam
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Madeleine Dean
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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



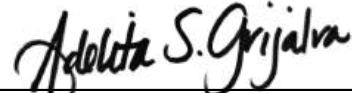
Judy Chu
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Greg Casar
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Nancy Pelosi
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Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



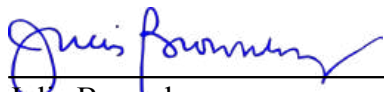
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Julia Brownley
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