

C-FARAR - Club For A Reformed American Republic
Working For Greater Liberty And Justice For All Citizens Of Our Democratic Capitalist System

Position Paper No. 1
Concerning National Security And International Threats to Our Lives And Our Democratic Republic

We are working to achieve reform of our nation's war making laws such that it requires both the President and the Congress to engage our military and intelligence forces in acts of war.

The founders of our republic wrote in our Declaration of Independence and the Preamble to our Constitution that our government was created to protect "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" and to "provide for the common defense". Events of the last few decades, especially the last two culminating in the election of our current President, have exposed long known flaws in the clarity and balance of "war making powers" in our system of government. This lack of clarity results in serious inadequacies in the fulfillment of these responsibilities by our national government.

Indeed, we are currently in greater danger regarding national security than we have been since the 1960's. This increased danger to our health, lives and livelihoods results from the fact that:

1. We have elected a President who appears willing to exploit these systemic flaws for political advantage via his execution of foreign relations, who contemplates nuclear war and the spread of nuclear weapons and who dares emerging nuclear armed nations to use such weapons.
2. We have consistently elected a Congress which has regularly declined to exercise its power to approve or disapprove the use of military force by the President in the execution of foreign policy thus leaving the "war making power" essentially unchecked in the hands of the President and Commander In Chief of the military under his command.
3. We, the American electorate, have failed to fully recognize and adequately deal with the grave risks to our national security posed by:
 - a. The slow but steady spread of nuclear and other weapons of mass death and destruction to other nations and perhaps even to non-nation entities.
 - b. The slow but certain human caused alterations and degradations in the world's physical environment which steadily increase the danger to our health, lives, homes and livelihoods.

As members of Club For A Reformed American Republic (C-FARAR) we propose that we, the American electorate, take the following actions to address these risks and dangers:

Elect a Congress willing to commit to:

1. Amend or replace the War Powers Act of 1973 with provisions that
 - a. The President, within 3 days of commencement of any military action ,whether overt or covert, which has not been previously and specifically authorized by Congress, must fully disclose to and consult with the senior leaders of Congress and seek authorization to continue, and
 - b. require Congress to, within 10 days, consider the President's actions and vote to either authorize the actions or to disapprove such actions and demand that they cease.

2. Submit the legislation passed in number 1 above to the States in the form of an amendment to the Constitution.
3. Perform its constitutional duty as an equal branch of our government in the formation of foreign policy and pass legislation declaring that it is in our national interest that;
 - a. The primary defense of our republic must be in combining the strongest conventional military forces in the world with the strongest diplomatic force in the world.
 - b. A foreign policy goal of our nation is to negotiate the ultimate elimination of all nuclear, chemical and biological weapons from all nations of the world.
 - c. A foreign policy goal of our nation is to negotiate an international agreement to mitigate the effects of global climate change.