Purpose: To authorize the limited use of the United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

AMENDMENT INTENDED TO BE PROPOSED BY MR. MENENDEZ to the amendment (No. ____ ) proposed by Mr. PAUL

Viz:

Beginning on page 1 of the amendment, strike line 2 and all that follows through page 6, line 16, and insert the following:

SEC. __. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF UNITED STATES FORCES.

(a) Short Title.—This section may be cited as the “Authorization for the Use of Military Force against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant”.

(b) Findings.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The terrorist organization known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and various other names (in this section referred to as “ISIL”) poses a grave threat to the people and territorial integrity of Iraq, Syria, regional stability, and the national security interests of the United States and its allies and partners.

(2) ISIL holds significant territory in Iraq and Syria and has stated its intention to seize more territory and demonstrated the capability to do so.

(3) ISIL leaders have stated that they intend to conduct terrorist attacks internationally, including against the United States, its citizens, and interests.

(4) ISIL has committed despicable acts of violence and mass executions against Muslims, regardless of sect, who do not subscribe to ISIL’s depraved, violent, and oppressive ideology.
(5) ISIL has threatened genocide and committed vicious acts of violence against religious and ethnic minority groups, including Iraqi Christians, Yezidi, and Turkmen populations.

(6) ISIL is responsible for the brutal murder of innocent United States citizens, including journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff.

(7) It is the policy of the United States to work with regional and global allies and partners to degrade and defeat ISIL, to cut off its funding, to stop the flow of foreign fighters to its ranks, and to support local communities as they reject ISIL.

(8) The announcement of the anti-ISIL Coalition on September 5, 2014, during the NATO Summit in Wales, stated that ISIL poses a serious threat and should be countered by a broad international coalition.

(9) President Barack Obama articulated five lines of effort in the campaign to counter ISIL, including supporting regional military partners, stopping the flow of foreign fighters, cutting off ISIL’s access to financing, addressing urgent humanitarian needs, and contesting ISIL’s messaging.

(10) The United States Government calls on its allies and partners in the Middle East and North Africa that have not already done so to join and participate in the anti-ISIL Coalition.

(11) The United States Government has successfully conducted airstrikes in Iraq, in coordination with Iraqi and Kurdish security forces, to prevent humanitarian catastrophes, project vulnerable minority populations, repel ISIL from areas of strategic importance, and demonstrate support to communities in western and northern Iraq being terrorized by ISIL.

(12) The United States Government has successfully conducted airstrikes in Syria, in coordination with local actors on the ground who demonstrate commitment and capability in countering ISIL, in order to target ISIL training camps and munitions facilities, stop illicit sources of ISIL funding, protect vulnerable minority populations, and target extremist groups intent on attacking the United States and its allies.

(13) United States and Coalition airstrikes to date have succeeded in halting ISIL’s advance in Iraq and Syria.

(14) The President should to the greatest extent possible act in concert or cooperation with the security forces of other countries in the region to counter the grave threat to regional stability and international security posed by ISIL.

(15) The anti-ISIL strategy requires effective local security forces in Iraq and Syria, and empowered political leaders committed to leading inclusive, representative governments that enable citizens in both countries to achieve their legitimate aspirations and to live in peace and security.

(16) President Obama stated on November 6, 2014, his commitment to working with Congress to pass an authorization for the use of military force for the anti-ISIL military campaign.

(c) Authorization.—The President is authorized, subject to the limitations in subsection (e), to use the Armed Forces of the United States as the President determines to be necessary and appropriate against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant or associated persons or forces as defined in subsection (h).
(d) War Powers Resolution Requirements.—

(1) Specific statutory authorization.—Consistent with section 8(a)(1) of the War
Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1547(a)(1)), Congress declares that this section is intended to
constitute specific statutory authorization within the meaning of section 5(b) of the War
Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(b)), within the limits of the authorization established
under this section.

(2) Applicability of other requirements.—Nothing in this section supersedes any
requirement of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

(e) Limitations.—The authority granted in subsection (c) does not authorize the use of the
United States Armed Forces for the purpose of ground combat operations except as necessary—

(1) for the protection or rescue of members of the United States Armed Forces or United
States citizens from imminent danger posed by ISIL;

(2) to conduct limited operations against high value targets; or

(3) to conduct missions not intended to result in ground combat operations by United
States forces, such as—

(i) intelligence collection and sharing;

(ii) enabling kinetic strikes;

(iii) operational planning; or

(iv) other forms of advice and assistance to forces fighting ISIL in Iraq or Syria.

(f) Sunset.—This authorization for the use of military force shall terminate three years after
the date of the enactment of this section.

(g) Reports.—

(1) Periodic report.—The President shall report to the Congress at least once every
60 days on specific actions taken pursuant to this authorization.

(2) Comprehensive strategy.—Not later than 30 days after the enactment of this
Act, the President shall submit to the Congress an unclassified report, that may include a
classified annex, on the comprehensive strategy of the United States in Iraq and Syria, including
all activities authorized by this Act. The comprehensive strategy report shall include—

(A) The specific political and diplomatic objectives of the United States in the region
and the methods proposed to achieve them;

(B) Clearly defined military objectives of the United States, including, but not limited
to:

(i) A list of the organizations and entities to be targeted by military
operations;

(ii) the geographic scope of military operations; and

(iii) methods for limiting civilian casualties;

(C) Actual and proposed contributions from coalition partners of the United States, to
include financing, equipment, training, troops, and logistics support;

(D) Humanitarian assistance and support for displaced civilian populations;
(E) Benchmarks for assessing progress toward political, diplomatic, and military
goals;
(F) A realistic end goal and exit strategy; and
(G) An estimate of the costs involved.

(h) Associated Persons or Forces Defined.—In this section, the term “associated persons or
forces” means individuals and organizations fighting for or on behalf of the Islamic State of Iraq
and the Levant or a closely-related successor entity, for the purposes of action authorized to be
taken under this section.

(i) Applicability.—The provisions of this section pertaining to the authorization of use of force
against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant shall supersede any preceding authorization for
the use of military force.

(j) Repeal of Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq.—The Authorization for
U.S.C. 1541 note) is hereby repealed.