AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

Eric Bunn Sr.
National Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Everett B. Kelley
National President

Dr. Kendrick B. Roberson
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November 9, 2026

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), which represents more than 800,000 federal and D.C. workers, including approximately 250,000 in the Department of Defense (DoD), I write urging you to support the resolution introduced by Representative Thomas Massie ([H.Res. ___]) to impeach Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth.

By directing the war in Iran in contravention of Sections 2(c), 5(b) and 5(c) of the 1973 War Powers Resolution, Mr. Hegseth has chosen to carry out an illegal operation that has risked not only the lives of thousands of military personnel, but also the lives of countless DoD civilian employees who support them on the frontlines and military bases across the Middle East.

In the absence of a congressional declaration of war, specific statutory authorization, or a legitimate national emergency, Mr. Hegseth, in the first several weeks of the Iran hostilities, violated the oath he took last year to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States." He has continued to flout the law by refusing to obey Congress's express direction in June to terminate unauthorized hostilities against Iran. His illegal supervision of the hostilities has, so far, cost the lives of at least 21 service members and resulted in close to 900 injuries. This grim tally must not increase.

Over the past year and a half, Mr. Hegseth has abused the authority of his office by illegally terminating workplace rights and protections for DoD civilian employees, many of whom are military veterans. These patriots have been silenced, unable to voice legitimate concerns about Mr. Hegseth's conduct of the war in Iran without fear of political retaliation and job loss. The deprivation of their rights has harmed – not helped – our country's national security. As legal challenges wend their way through the courts, the best hope for the swift restoration of the rule of law at the Department of Defense is for the House to impeach Mr. Hegseth and refer him to the Senate for removal from office.

By adopting Rep. Massie's resolution, the House can begin the long overdue bipartisan effort to reclaim its constitutional powers and authority, restore checks and balances, and take responsibility for the lives of military personnel and civilian employees that Mr. Hegseth's capricious leadership has jeopardized.

Sincerely,

Everett B. Kelley
National President

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