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March 10, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Hegseth:

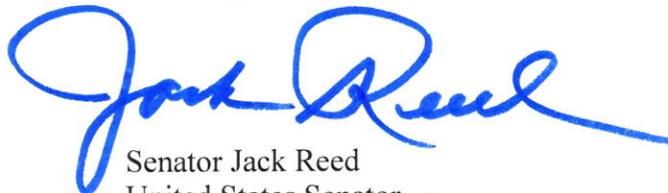
I write to share my deep concerns about the war against Iran. Operation Epic Fury was launched without informing the American people, gaining the consent of Congress who holds the sole authority to declare war, or building a coalition of allies and partners. At just over a week into the operation, American forces, operating alongside Israel, have conducted thousands of strikes against Iran's missile sites, command-and-control nodes, and senior regime leadership. Ayatollah Khamenei and many other senior leaders have been killed. Iran has retaliated with missile and drone attacks across the region, resulting in American casualties. Among these concerns, I also have read press reports of Defense Department officials citing various cost estimates for these operations, but the Department has not yet told Congress. The American people deserve to know what this war is costing in blood and treasure.

Since the initial strikes on February 28, 2026, how much has the Department spent on these operations? How much are the daily costs of these operations? What are the costs to readiness? How much funding does the Department need to replenish munitions and aircraft combat losses?

When do you plan to submit a request to Congress for supplemental funding, as this operation was not included in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget?

I look forward to your expeditious response.

Sincerely,



Senator Jack Reed  
United States Senator