

Date: February 3, 2012

To: Congresswoman Lois Capps  
California 23rd District Congressional Representative  
1411 Marsh St.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Subject: Request to Support H.R. 3785

Dear Congresswoman Capps:

We, your constituents, are concerned with the recent passage of the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act. In particular, we are deeply troubled by Section 1021 which authorizes the use of military force against those committing the unsettlingly vaguely worded offense of "belligerent acts" against the United States and allows for their "detention under the law without trial until the end of the hostilities." Even more harrowing is Section 1022's use of cryptic language to assure the public that, "The requirement to detain a person in military custody under this section does not extend to citizens of the United States," all the while implying that while the administration is not "required" to detain American citizens it has the authority to do so, if it saw fit. Cleared of the muddled legal phrasing, it becomes evident that the wording of this bill allows for the use of military force on American soil against American citizens and allows them to be detained indefinitely without due process.

This bill is diametrically opposed to our Constitutionally enshrined rights that guarantee, "no person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime unless on presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury," and, "in all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury...and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have assistance of counsel for his defense." These are the rights our founders fought to defend and these are the rights that the People demand their representatives respect.

Congresswoman, we know you believe in our Constitution and in the values it protects. That is why we don't understand your support of this horrendous legislation. Now that the nature of the legislation and the People's disapproval of it has come to light, we are willing to believe you will do everything in your power to set things right. We urge you to support H.R. 3785 to repeal Section 1021 of the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act.

We likewise urge you to oppose any further measures that will limit our rights.

Representative Capps, this is your chance to stand with the People of the 23rd Congressional District of California. Now is a time when we have few champions, we hope we can find one in you.

Sincerely,

Your Constituents

Signature:

Name:

Address: