

Much Support for War Powers Bill

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The American people overwhelmingly support, in principle, the new war powers bill that would require that a president receive congressional approval on the sending of U.S. troops into action overseas.

By a vote of 5 to 1, the public favors curbing the President's war-making powers. Under the new bill, the President would have to explain an act of war within 48 hours, but even if Congress didn't accept his reasons, the chief executive could continue the fighting for 60 days and have an additional 30 days to complete withdrawal from the action.

In overriding President Nixon's veto, the House voted 285 to 135, four votes more than two-thirds majority required to override a veto. The subsequent vote in the Senate, 75 to 18, made the bill law, with 13 votes more than required.

The view that the President should get congressional approval before committing the nation to war is held by a large majority of persons in all major population groups.

Women, Democrats and younger persons are the most likely to favor limiting the chief executive's war-making powers.

Following is the question asked and the key findings:

"Do you think the President should or should not be required to get the approval of Congress before sending

U.S. armed Forces into action outside the U.S.?"

	Should	Should Not	No Opinion
Nationwide	80	16	4
Men	76	20	4
Women	85	11	4
18-29 years	84	12	4
30-49 years	78	17	5
50 years and older	79	17	4
Republicans	71	26	3
Democrats	86	10	4
Independents	80	17	3
College background	77	19	4
High school	83	14	3
Grade school	78	15	7
East	80	17	3
Midwest	84	13	3
South	76	17	7
West	80	16	4

Although an overwhelming majority of Americans favor approval by Congress before the president commits U.S. armed forces to action, six in ten persons think Congress should not be required to obtain the approval of the people by means of a national vote. At the same time, however, as many as one-third would favor such a procedure.

A majority of persons in all segments of the population are opposed to a national vote, with the exception of young adults and persons with a grade school background where the issue is fairly evenly divided.

Following is the question and findings:

"In order to declare war, should Congress be required to obtain the approval of the people by means of a national vote?"

	Should	Should Not	No Opinion
Nationwide	35	58	7
Men	31	64	4
Women	39	52	9
18-29 years	49	46	5
30-49 years	27	67	6
50 years and older	33	58	9
Republicans	21	72	7
Democrats	42	51	7
Independents	35	59	6
College background	25	74	1
High school	37	57	6
Grade school	43	40	17
Midwest	32	60	8
East	38	57	5
South	37	54	9
West	33	63	4