

# Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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## Time to bring our troops home

Ending this conflict would be neither hasty nor impulsive.

By The EDITORIAL BOARD

Almost two decades have passed since the United States went to war in Afghanistan, and Congress still cannot find the spine to end this war.

The House of Representatives voted on July 21 to shoot down a proposal by Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., that would have required the withdrawal of the remaining 8,600 U.S. troops in Afghanistan by April 29, 2021.

The proposal was rejected by a vote of 129-284, with 103 Democrats, including Rep. Conor Lamb, D-Mt. Lebanon, joining 181 Republicans in voting no. Mr. Lamb has previously expressed support for a gradual wind-down in Afghanistan, saying in December that military commanders “are very confident that we can still be able to accomplish the counterterrorism part of our mission and prevent attacks on the homeland.”

But as people born after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks have become eligible for military service in Afghanistan, the nation must ask itself what mission is left to be accomplished. Public opinion polls have shown that the majority of Americans



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view the war as a failure. The country has already paid more than \$2 trillion for the war and more than 2,400 American men and women have lost their lives fighting this “forever war,” with no meaningful objective or end in sight.

Ending this conflict would be neither hasty nor impulsive. It

would be sensible and humane. The bloodshed, for both Afghani civilians and American soldiers, must stop.

If Mr. Lamb and his colleagues on either side of the aisle have quibbles with Ms. Omar’s proposal, the amendment should be revised to make it more agreeable. But Congress must put an end to this war. The American people want it to end. Our servicemen and women and their families deserve to be brought home to safety.

It is time for Congress to step up and do what is right, after nearly 20 years, by bringing our troops home from Afghanistan.

For more information or to sign our petition, go to [BringOurTroopsHome.US](https://www.bringourtroopshome.us)