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## **Sen. Tim Kaine Commends UVa Miller Center's War Powers Commission Report**

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) today commended the work of the Miller Center's War Powers Commission in remarks on the Senate floor, in which he called for replacing the War Powers Resolution of 1973 and announced he will work with Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) to establish a process of consultation on how this country decides to go to war.

Chaired by former Secretaries of State James Baker and Warren Christopher, the Miller Center's bipartisan War Powers Commission issued a unanimous report in 2007 calling for the repeal of the War Powers Resolution of 1973 and replacing it with a proposed War Powers Consultation Act, which:

- Provides that the president shall consult with Congress before deploying U.S. troops into "significant armed conflict"—i.e., combat operations lasting, or expected to last, more than a week.
- Defines the types of hostilities that would or would not be considered "significant armed conflicts."
- Creates a new Joint Congressional Consultation Committee, which includes leaders of both houses as well as the chair and ranking members of key committees.
- Establishes a permanent bipartisan staff with access to the national security and intelligence information necessary to conduct its work.
- Calls on Congress to vote up or down on significant armed conflicts within 30 days.

*The report is available at <http://millercenter.org/policy/commissions/warpowers>.*

"The American public needs to hear a clear dialogue between the two branches justifying decisions about war," Kaine said. "When Congress and the president communicate openly and reach consensus, the American public is informed and most likely to support decisions about military action. But when there is no clear process for reaching decision, public opinion with respect to military action may be divided, to the detriment of the troops who fight and making it less likely that government will responsibly budget for the costs of war."

Gov. Gerald L. Baliles, director and CEO of the Miller Center said, "As our report notes, the need for reform stems from the gravity and uncertainty posed by war powers questions. Few would dispute that the most important decisions our leaders make involve war, and the nation would benefit greatly when the president and Congress consult frequently and meaningfully regarding war and matters of national security. We hope to work closely with Senator Kaine, Senator McCain, and their colleagues to share our important work."

Along with Baker and Christopher, commission members included: Slade Gorton, former U.S. senator from Washington; Lee H. Hamilton, former U.S. representative from Indiana; Carla A. Hills, former U.S. trade representative; John O. Marsh, Jr., former secretary of the army; Edwin Meese, III, former U.S. attorney general; Abner J. Mikva, former chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit; J. Paul Reason, former commander-in-chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet; Brent Scowcroft, former national security advisor; Anne-Marie Slaughter, then dean of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University; and Strobe Talbott, president of the Brookings Institution.

John C. Jeffries, Jr., then dean of the University of Virginia School of Law, and W. Taylor Reveley, III, then dean of William & Mary Law School, now president of the College of William & Mary, served as co-directors of the commission.

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