

Dear Mr. Danilow,

Thank you for contacting me to express your concerns regarding the United States' policy toward Syria. I am grateful for your thoughts and the opportunity to respond.

As you may know, in March 2011 the Syrian people began to protest the repressive regime of Bashar al-Assad. In response to the demonstrations, Assad engaged in a military crackdown which resulted in an estimated 100,000 deaths, a number that is climbing every day. Assad's violent response to the Syrian people's legitimate demand for freedom demonstrates why his regime is a source of instability and why he lost his legitimacy to govern a long time ago. It is important to note the end of the Assad regime would be a significant strategic loss to the current regime in Iran, and therefore in America's national interest.

On September 4, 2013, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted on S.J. Res. 21, the Authorization for the Use of Military Force against the Government of Syria to Respond to Use of Chemical Weapons. I voted against S.J. Res. 21 because I believe a limited strike by the United States government will not advance our goal of deterring Assad from using chemical weapons and could lead to dangerous, unwanted consequences. A military response is not the only way to respond to Syria. Instead of a military response, the United States' response should be a multifaceted plan to help the Syrian people replace Assad with a moderate, secular government as I have been advocating for years now.

I continue my support of the Syrian Transition Support Act, S.960 which passed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on July 24, 2013. S.960 would not only openly provide lethal assistance, but would increase non-lethal support to carefully and properly vetted opposition groups. Additionally, S.960 would place sanctions on financial institutions and individuals that have provided sale of weapons or petroleum to Assad, would create a transition fund that would assist in the transition to a moderate government and would increase humanitarian aid to the Syrian people and surrounding countries who are hosting millions of refugees. I provided a statement for the record on my on policy concerning Syria at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee which you can view [here](#).

As a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, I will keep your thoughts in mind as the situation in Syria continues to unfold and I will continue to work to ensure that the United States remains a safe and prosperous nation.

Sincerely,

Marco Rubio
United States Senator

Each week I provide a weekly update on issues in Washington and ways in which my office can assist the people of Florida. Sign up [here](#) for updates on my legislative efforts, schedule of events throughout Florida, constituent services and much more.