

Mark Arabo: One day before [President Obama] gave the executive order for airstrikes and aid that was exactly what we were advocating for at the White House in the Roosevelt Room to (Obama national security adviser) Ben Rhodes. We said we need airstrikes and aid. We needed more but he said, Well President Obama is very focused right now. He's very deliberate. He's anti-war. Big, big, anti-war president. He campaigned on it. He won on it. He wants to end war. He doesn't want to engage in another war, period.

We said, OK well you don't have to engage in a war. You don't have to put boots on the ground because we don't want that right now. Do airstrikes and aid. Aid so that people don't die in the streets, in the camps. Airstrikes to do a containment approach. Because if he doesn't want to fight ISIS, contain them at least so the next president fights them, takes them on.

A day later or two days later they announced the same thing. We were watching in [my office in San Diego]. We got back and watched it. Then I felt how beautiful America is, the greatness really of America. How an everyday American could go to the White House, to the State Department, to Congress and really do real change. It was hard. It was grueling. It was a long fight. But we got it done. But again, it's one battle in this long war to help the people.

Liam Dillon: So, I'm sorry. The airstrikes were your idea?

Mark Arabo: Yeah. Airstrikes and humanitarian aid. We proposed that.