

## December Action Supplemental Materials

### I. U.S. Department of Peacebuilding (H.R. 808) Co-sponsors

Current - 113<sup>th</sup> Congress (2013-2014) - 17 as of 12/2/13

[Rep Conyers, John, Jr. \[MI-13\] - 2/25/2013](#)

[Rep Hahn, Janice \[CA-44\] - 2/25/2013](#)

[Rep Polis, Jared \[CO-2\] - 2/25/2013](#)

[Rep Clarke, Yvette D. \[NY-9\] - 2/25/2013](#)

[Rep Pingree, Chellie \[ME-1\] - 2/25/2013](#)

[Rep Andrews, Robert E. \[NJ-1\] - 2/25/2013](#)

[Rep McGovern, James P. \[MA-2\] - 2/25/2013](#)

[Rep Moore, Gwen \[WI-4\] - 2/25/2013](#)

[Rep Grijalva, Raul M. \[AZ-3\] - 4/10/2013](#)

[Rep Markey, Edward J. \[MA-5\] - 4/10/2013](#)

[Rep Norton, Eleanor Holmes \[DC\] - 4/10/2013](#)

[Rep Honda, Michael M. \[CA-17\] - 4/11/2013](#)

[Rep Edwards, Donna F. \[MD-4\] - 5/13/2013](#)

[Rep Lewis, John \[GA-5\] - 5/17/2013](#)

[Rep Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. \[GA-4\] - 7/17/2013](#)

[Rep Holt, Rush \[NJ-12\] - 7/31/2013](#)

[Rep Farr, Sam \[CA-20\] - 11/12/2013](#)

Previous Congressional Session Co-Sponsors - 112<sup>th</sup> Congress (2011-2012) – 63

[Rep Conyers, John, Jr. \[MI-14\] - 2/18/2011](#)

[Rep Lewis, John \[GA-5\] - 2/18/2011](#)

[Rep Lee, Barbara \[CA-9\] - 2/18/2011](#)

[Rep Moore, Gwen \[WI-4\] - 2/18/2011](#)

[Rep McGovern, James P. \[MA-3\] - 7/28/2011](#)

[Rep Schakowsky, Janice D. \[IL-9\] - 7/28/2011](#)

[Rep Nadler, Jerrold \[NY-8\] - 9/9/2011](#)

[Rep Serrano, Jose E. \[NY-16\] - 9/20/2011](#)

[Rep Polis, Jared \[CO-2\] - 2/18/2011](#)  
[Rep Brown, Corrine \[FL-3\] - 2/18/2011](#)  
[Rep DeFazio, Peter A. \[OR-4\] - 2/18/2011](#)  
[Rep Farr, Sam \[CA-17\] - 2/18/2011](#)  
[Rep Norton, Eleanor Holmes \[DC\] - 2/18/2011](#)  
[Rep Olver, John W. \[MA-1\] - 2/18/2011](#)  
[Rep Sherman, Brad \[CA-27\] - 2/18/2011](#)  
[Rep Baldwin, Tammy \[WI-2\] - 2/18/2011](#)  
[Rep Woolsey, Lynn C. \[CA-6\] - 2/18/2011](#)  
[Rep Honda, Michael M. \[CA-15\] - 3/1/2011](#)  
[Rep Jackson Lee, Sheila \[TX-18\] - 3/1/2011](#)  
[Rep Wu, David \[OR-1\] - 3/2/2011](#)  
[Rep Ellison, Keith \[MN-5\] - 3/29/2011](#)  
[Rep Stark, Fortney Pete \[CA-13\] - 3/29/2011](#)  
[Rep Pingree, Chellie \[ME-1\] - 5/5/2011](#)  
[Rep Davis, Susan A. \[CA-53\] - 5/26/2011](#)  
[Rep Filner, Bob \[CA-51\] - 5/26/2011](#)  
[Rep McCollum, Betty \[MN-4\] - 6/1/2011](#)  
[Rep Miller, George \[CA-7\] - 7/6/2011](#)  
[Rep Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. \[GA-4\] - 7/20/2011](#)  
[Rep Christensen, Donna M. \[VI\] - 7/21/2011](#)  
[Rep Andrews, Robert E. \[NJ-1\] - 7/28/2011](#)  
[Rep Clay, Wm. Lacy \[MO-1\] - 7/28/2011](#)  
[Rep Cummings, Elijah E. \[MD-7\] - 7/28/2011](#)  
[Rep Holt, Rush \[NJ-12\] - 7/28/2011](#)  
[Rep Kaptur, Marcy \[OH-9\] - 7/28/2011](#)  
[Rep Kildee, Dale E. \[MI-5\] - 7/28/2011](#)  
[Rep McDermott, Jim \[WA-7\] - 7/28/2011](#)

[Rep Hahn, Janice \[CA-36\] - 12/1/2011](#)  
[Rep Jackson, Jesse L., Jr. \[IL-2\] - 4/17/2012](#)  
[Rep Richardson, Laura \[CA-37\] - 4/17/2012](#)  
[Rep Carson, Andre \[IN-7\] - 4/19/2012](#)  
[Rep Clarke, Yvette D. \[NY-11\] - 4/19/2012](#)  
[Rep Cleaver, Emanuel \[MO-5\] - 4/19/2012](#)  
[Rep Davis, Danny K. \[IL-7\] - 4/19/2012](#)  
[Rep Green, Al \[TX-9\] - 4/19/2012](#)  
[Rep Hinchey, Maurice D. \[NY-22\] - 4/19/2012](#)  
[Rep Hirono, Mazie K. \[HI-2\] - 4/19/2012](#)  
[Rep Rothman, Steven R. \[NJ-9\] - 4/19/2012](#)  
[Rep Ryan, Tim \[OH-17\] - 4/19/2012](#)  
[Rep Larson, John B. \[CT-1\] - 4/19/2012](#)  
[Rep Rangel, Charles B. \[NY-15\] - 5/8/2012](#)  
[Rep Grijalva, Raul M. \[AZ-7\] - 5/17/2012](#)  
[Rep Hastings, Alcee L. \[FL-23\] - 5/17/2012](#)  
[Rep Bass, Karen \[CA-33\] - 8/2/2012](#)  
[Rep Chu, Judy \[CA-32\] - 8/2/2012](#)  
[Rep Edwards, Donna F. \[MD-4\] - 8/2/2012](#)  
[Rep Fudge, Marcia L. \[OH-11\] - 8/2/2012](#)  
[Rep Johnson, Eddie Bernice \[TX-30\] - 8/2/2012](#)  
[Rep Markey, Edward J. \[MA-7\] - 8/2/2012](#)  
[Rep Moran, James P. \[VA-8\] - 8/2/2012](#)  
[Rep Richmond, Cedric L. \[LA-2\] - 8/2/2012](#)  
[Rep Rush, Bobby L. \[IL-1\] - 8/2/2012](#)  
[Rep Waters, Maxine \[CA-35\] - 8/2/2012](#)  
[Rep Smith, Adam \[WA-9\] - 8/2/2012](#)

## II. Additional Sample Talking Points and quotes:

***When I try to envision the future of our country, I see a nation where peace, and the conditions that are necessary for peace, are top priorities in America ... Integral to this process has been the grassroots movement to create a cabinet level Department of Peace ... I say we need visionary out-of-the-box approaches to public policy and a total paradigm shift to tackle the problems of the twenty-first century. Yes, the Department of Peace is an agency whose time has come."***

**- Congresswoman Barbara Lee**

### **What is HR 808 - the Department of Peacebuilding Act?**

This legislation will establish within the federal government a Department focused on the cultivation of peace as a national policy objective, including development of policies that promote national and international conflict prevention, nonviolent intervention, mediation, peaceful conflict resolution, and structured conflict mediation. This mission will be carried out by establishing within the Department, Offices of Peace Education and Training, Domestic Peace Activities, International Peace Activities, Technology for Peace, Arms Control and Disarmament, Peacebuilding Information and Research, Human Rights and Economic Rights and the Intergovernmental Advisory Council on Peace. These offices will collaborate and share resources with government agencies, nongovernment entities, educators, business and the private sector to create and promulgate proven and cost effective measures, programs and policies that foster a culture of peace.

Peacebuilding has been defined by the United Nations as peacebuilding as involving "a range of measures targeted to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities at all levels for conflict management, and to lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development." Peacebuilding is built upon research into the root causes of violence in the United States and in the world, through promotion and promulgation of effective policies and programs that ameliorate root causes of violence, and through providing all citizens, organizations and governmental bodies with opportunities to learn about and practice the essential tools of nonviolent conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Approximately 85% of programs and funding for a U.S. Department of Peacebuilding would be directed locally, to reduce violence in our communities.

***"...peace is the wholeness created by right relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part."***

~Earth Charter

### **Why do we need a Department of Peacebuilding?**

While there are many federal peacebuilding agencies and programs within specific fields, such as family violence or civil rights, there is no governmental body that focuses on the broad view of cultivating and promoting peacebuilding across every area of human endeavor, from environmental programs to national defense, and across all levels of society, from self-acceptance to nonviolent conflict resolution in families and communities, as well as between nations. Just as our military prepares for violent situations with training and armaments, our nation needs to do the groundwork at every level of society to build a culture of peace by providing and propagating the most effective peacebuilding tools and resources for cooperation and nonviolent conflict resolution.

## **Violence is costly to our economy and to our people:**

A 2004 World Health Organization report estimates that interpersonal violence within the United States costs approximately \$300 billion annually, not including war-related costs.

The United States currently ranks 100th in this year's Global Peace Index of peaceful nations.

The 2012 United States Peace Index analyzed the costs associated with violence and the socio-economic measures associated with peace and reported that the total cost of violence to the United States—including lost productivity from violence—was conservatively calculated to be over \$460 billion.

With 15% of U.S. children living below the poverty line, our nation's child poverty rate is second highest among 35 developed nations (U.N. Children's Fund.) Poverty is a form of economic violence.

The Global Peace Index reports that the United States spent \$1.7 trillion for violence containment in 2012, which is equivalent to 11% of GDP and a \$5,485 annual cost for every woman, man, and child. The U.S. spends more for violence containment than any other nation and more than the next highest spending nations combined.

***"While we proceed to safeguard our national interests, let us also safeguard human interests. And the elimination of war and arms is clearly in the interest of both."***

-President John F. Kennedy

## **Solutions:**

Solutions to ameliorating violence are as simple and complex as the many interrelated and interconnected sources of violence. Fortunately, there are at least 82 U.S. and international colleges and universities with Peace and Conflict Studies programs and departments alongside myriad governmental and nongovernmental agencies with knowledge and experience that can be tapped and expanded for use at all levels of society. The peace dividend, or money saved by reducing violence, could be made available for programs that increase the safety and security of our citizens.

Below are just a few of the many effective programs that are working and would be strengthened by the united focus, collaboration, and networking that a U.S. Department of Peacebuilding would provide. Our military forces are given peacebuilding assignments that cannot be effectively carried out while armed and in uniform. Brokering peace can be more effective, sustainable and economically viable when our government partners with trained civil society peacekeepers, such as:

- Nonviolent Peace Force - Rafael Seguis, the Undersecretary of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs affirmed the choice by both the government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, selecting Nonviolent Peace Force as the only international nongovernmental organization to be part of the official agreement on Civilian Protection. Undersecretary Seguis stated, "Both parties were already aware of Nonviolent Peace Force's presence in the very 'hotspot' areas of Mindanao...its track record on the ground with respect to conflict prevention activities and the good relations it continues to maintain with local stakeholders." He pointed out that it was "a unique model of unarmed civilian protection that

directly engages civil society groups doing peacekeeping work, and taps into their knowledge, experience and manpower," and that this arrangement has contributed to the peace process.

- Training in interpersonal peacebuilding can help all members of society to resolve conflicts. The Center for NonViolent Communication (NVC) is one of many organizations teaching people how to have greater authenticity in their communication, increased understanding, deepening connection and conflict resolution.
- Peacebuilding skills at the community level help prevent violence. The Community Conferencing Center in Baltimore, Maryland, provides a forum for people who have been affected by behavior that has caused serious harm – those who have caused the harm, and those who have been harmed. With their respective supporters they find ways to repair the damage caused and to minimize further harm. Community Conferencing, the first such program to be conducted in a large American city, has resulted in a 60% reduction in recidivism in young offenders compared to similar juvenile justice cases in the traditional juvenile justice system.
- International peacebuilding and development programs operated by the State Department can be augmented by nongovernmental organizations that foster improved relations between those in conflict. Ultimate Peace volunteers build bridges of understanding and friendship between youth who live in communities divided by conflict, using the character building sport of Ultimate Frisbee. Coaches from around the world to teach Middle Eastern youth how to play Ultimate Frisbee; how to work as a team with Jewish, Arab, and Palestinian members; and how to resolve on-field disagreements themselves, rather than by using referees. Participants practice, socialize, and share dance, language, music, and more for the very first time in their lives with youths they may have been taught to hate, thus expanding understanding and bridging cultures.
- The National Institutes of Health fund research into violence prevention as a public health initiative and makes that research accessible to all interested parties.

***"Though force can protect in emergency, only justice, fairness, consideration and cooperation can finally lead men to the dawn of eternal peace.***

- President Dwight D. Eisenhower

### **III. Sample Phone Scripts for Current Co-Sponsors, and Non-Co-Sponsors**

#### **Sample Phone Script and Follow Up Process (Non-co-sponsor MOC)**

Action Team Member (ATM): "Hello, may I speak with the legislative aide most appropriate for H.R. 808 - the Department of Peacebuilding Act?" (They may ask the category the bill falls into – it falls into several, violence reduction, international, domestic peacebuilding – mentioning these will give them an idea of which Legislative Aide (LA).)

If that legislative aide is not available – "May I have that person's name for follow-up?"

ATM: (If CS asks to take a message or when you are speaking with the legislative aide): - I am a constituent and a volunteer with a local Action Team of The Peace Alliance. We wrote letters to Representative \_\_\_\_\_ on [December 14, 2013] [and previously regarding Youth PROMISE Act and other peacebuilding initiatives] regarding the pending legislation for a U.S. Department of Peacebuilding (H.R. 808). Do you know if Representative \_\_\_\_\_ has been made aware of our letters yet?

ATM (if no from LA): Is there anything else you need from us in order to bring this to Representative \_\_\_\_\_'s attention? (Take notes and bring this information back to the team; email [Dan@peacealliance.org](mailto:Dan@peacealliance.org) if you are unsure how to comply with any requests or how to respond.) Thank the LA and either offer to follow up in two weeks or four weeks or ask them when would be a good time to check back with them after speaking with your Action Team.

ATM (if yes from LA): Is Representative \_\_\_\_\_ planning on becoming a co-sponsor?

ATM (if no or I don't know or similar response; any or all of the following questions): Do you know what Representative \_\_\_\_\_'s concerns are about the bill? Would Representative \_\_\_\_\_ be willing to take a meeting with us to learn more? Is there anything else you would like from us before we might move forward with scheduling a meeting with the Representative or a staff member? (Note: Some teams might not feel ready to sit down in a meeting with a legislative aide. Please go ahead and make this phone call anyway – and think about planning a meeting at a later time).

ATM (if yes from LA or CLOSING COMMENTS/Follow Up Mention): Great. Thank you for checking in with Representative \_\_\_\_\_ on this important piece of legislation. May I follow up with you in (2 weeks/4 weeks)?

## **Sample Phone Script and Follow Up Process (Co-sponsor MOC)**

Action Team Member (ATM): Hello, may I speak with the legislative aide assigned to the Department of Peacebuilding legislation? (They may ask the category the bill falls into – Let them know that the Representative is a current co-sponsor and that it falls into several, violence reduction, international, domestic peacebuilding will give them an idea of who is their appropriate Legislative Aide (LA).)

ATM: (If CS asks to take a message or when you are speaking with the legislative aide): - I am a constituent with a Local Action Team for The Peace Alliance. We wrote letters to Representative \_\_\_\_\_ on [December 14, 2013] [and previously regarding Youth PROMISE Act and other peacebuilding initiatives] regarding the pending legislation for a U.S. Department of Peacebuilding (H.R. 808). We both want to thank Representative \_\_\_\_\_ for co-sponsoring this important piece of legislation and see if he/she would be willing to become a champion for the legislation.

ATM (if no from LA): Is there anything else you need from us in order to bring this request to Representative \_\_\_\_\_'s attention? (Take notes and bring this information back to the team; email [Dan@peacealliance.org](mailto:Dan@peacealliance.org) if you are unsure how to comply with any requests or how to respond.) Thank the LA and either offer to follow up in two weeks or four weeks or ask them when would be a good time to check back with them after speaking with your Action Team.

ATM (if yes from LA): We would like to work with your office to continue to grow support for this legislation. (Any or all of the following additional questions—provided your team is committed and equipped to follow through with suggestions: What do you suggest at this point? May we be informed of the Representative's effort for this legislation? Can we meet with the Representative to see how we might work together on this? If we held an event, might the Representative attend and say a few words?)

ATM (CLOSING COMMENTS/Follow Up Mention): Thank you for your time and attention to this peacebuilding legislation. It is so important at this time in history. May I follow up with you in (2 weeks/4 weeks) ?