

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Co-Sponsor H.R. 808, to Establish a Department of Peacebuilding

Dear Colleague,

I invite you to cosponsor my bill to create a Cabinet Level Secretary and Department of Peacebuilding.

Why "Peacebuilding?" The term refers to activities that target the root causes of violence, and broad measures to stabilize our society and our globe to prevent violent conflict and create a sustainable peace. A Peacebuilding Department will provide an effective platform to address conflict, allowing us to invest our limited resources in jobs and nation building.

During the 20th century, more than 100,000,000 people perished in wars. Domestically, the CDC reports that 50,000 Americans die early every year due to violence in all its forms. Violence prevention saves lives, improves the quality of life, and is cost effective. Taking this step will promote peaceful alternatives to war, reduce incidents of violence across America, and strengthen our economy.

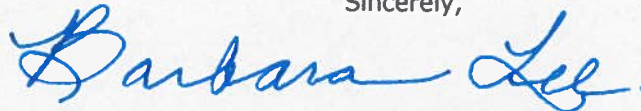
The Secretary of Peacebuilding will advise the President and work throughout the administration to engage in preventative conflict resolution at home and abroad. The Secretary will be on the National Security Council to provide strategies to reduce violent conflict and bloodshed.

The Department of Peacebuilding will also focus heavily on reducing violence in America, supporting violence prevention programs that address drug and alcohol related, domestic and gang violence. The Department will also develop non-violence curriculum for American school children, and promote nonviolence in American media.

It is past time to establish a Department of Peacebuilding to reduce suffering on a national and global scale while saving billions of dollars through violence reduction and increased economic productivity.

For any questions or to join as a cosponsor, please contact Jirair Ratevosian in my office at 5-2661 or Jirair.Ratevosian@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress