

Laser Talk for February, 2019

The costs of violence are staggering, both at home and abroad.

Domestically, **homicide is the second leading cause of death for ages 10 to 24**, 10 times greater than other leading industrialized nations.

And we are in an incarceration crisis - The U.S, **with only 5% of the world's population, has nearly 25 percent – 2.3 million** – of its prisoners.

And the cost of one air force fighter plane is about to leap **from 100 million to 300 million dollars**.

Meanwhile, effective peacebuilding solutions exist.

- Restorative Justice programs have **reduced recidivism rates from 60% to below 10%**.
- Violence prevention programs in schools can **save as much as \$25 for each \$1 spent**.
- We see a **62% success rate** of international peace agreements when negotiated through mediation. **Only 27% un-mediated** cases are successful.

Please **support HR 1111** which calls for a Department of Peacebuilding to research, articulate, and promote the best practices in reducing violence, transforming conflict, and enhancing cooperation from our own backyards to the rest of the world.