



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Historic Bill Introduced for a U.S. Department of Peacebuilding

On February 21, 2023, Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-12) introduced HR 1111, an act to Establish a Department of Peacebuilding (DoP), with 27 original co-sponsors from 15 states. Similar bills have been introduced in every session of Congress since 2001, calling for a cabinet-level Secretary of Peace.

[INSERT YOUR NAME, TOWN AND WHY YOU SUPPORT THE PASSING OF THE LEGISLATION, THE MISSION OF THE PEACE ALLIANCE, **Educate, advocate, and mobilize people into action to transform systems and public policy toward a culture of peace.** and/or WHAT YOU HAVE DONE LATELY IN PEACEBUILDING ADVOCACY OR LEARNING. Note the whole press release should be 1-1/2 pages or less, double-spaced.]

HR 1111 recognizes that: *Peace is a human right and a security issue ... Systemic racism is a significant driver of violence and a key obstacle to peace in the United States.* (DoP 2023, Sec. 2 (8) & (15))

Violence takes many forms from police and gun violence to bullying, domestic violence, racism and more. *“The physical, emotional, monetary, and other costs of violence are enormous, cut across all sectors of society in the US, disproportionately impact people of color, and are interrelated.”* (DoP 2023, Sec. 2(5))

The DoP legislation calls for prioritizing peace in this nation by transforming our culture of violence into a culture of peace. This means education, research, community building, inclusion and reform. It means supporting programs that work and creating new programs and policies.

Establishing a DoP says we, as a nation, choose to learn and apply the skills of peacebuilding and nonviolence and to work for peace and it will become law when enough of us inform our

“The Department of Peacebuilding has the potential to reduce suffering on a national and global scale while saving trillions of dollars through violence reduction and increased economic productivity.” – Rep. Barbara Lee

lawmakers that this is how we want our elected officials and governmental systems to represent our values and priorities going forward.

We are celebrating Black History Month and the Season for Nonviolence (1/30 - 4/4/23) by working for a Department of Peacebuilding. If you would like to have someone speak to your

organization regarding this transformative legislation, please contact Nancy Merritt at nancy@peacealliance.org. Learn more, including information on our monthly campaign calls and how to become a citizen advocate or organizational endorser, at www.dopcampaign.org.