



**NEWS RELEASE**

National Contact: Nancy Merritt

[Nancy@peacealliance.org](mailto:Nancy@peacealliance.org)

510-809-6348

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2023



**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.

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](mailto: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](http://www.dopcampaign.org).