118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1111

To establish a Department of Peacebuilding, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 21, 2023

Ms. Lee of California (for herself, Ms. Barragán, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Cárdenas, Ms. Chu, Ms. Clarke of New York, Mr. Davis of Illinois, Mr. DeSaulnier, Mr. Grijalva, Ms. Kelly of Illinois, Ms. Jackson Lee, Ms. Jacobs, Ms. Jayapal, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mr. McGovern, Ms. Moore of Wisconsin, Mr. Nadler, Ms. Norton, Ms. Omar, Mr. Payne, Ms. Pressley, Mr. Raskin, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Swalwell, Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, Ms. Tlaib, Ms. Velázquez, and Mrs. Watson Coleman) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability

A BILL

To establish a Department of Peacebuilding, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the “Department of Peacebuilding Act of 2023”.

(b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:
SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously declared the independence of the 13 colonies, and the achievement of peace was recognized as one of the highest duties of the new organization of free and independent States by declaring, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”
(2) The Constitution of the United States, in its preamble, further sets forth the insurance of the cause of peace in stating, “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity”.

(3) The United States has been at peace for only 21 entire years since its birth during the Revolutionary War. During the course of the 20th century, more than 100,000,000 people perished in wars. Thus far in the 21st century, nearly 1,000,000 people have died in conflict and war. Many of our citizens today have never known a peaceful year in their lifetimes. In 2022, over 88 million people were forcibly displaced due to violence in its many forms.

(4) Since late 2001, the United States appropriated and was obligated to spend an estimated $6.4 trillion through Fiscal Year 2020 in budgetary costs related to and caused by post 9/11 wars and an additional minimum of $1 trillion to care for veterans of these wars for several decades.

(5) The physical, emotional, monetary, and other costs of violence are enormous, cut across all
sectors of society in the United States, disproportionately impact people of color, and are interrelated. A World Health Organization report estimates that interpersonal violence within the United States costs approximately $300 billion annually, not including war-related costs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports one in four children experience some form of child abuse or neglect in their lifetimes; nearly one in four women report having experienced severe physical violence from an intimate partner; Native American women are sexually assaulted, murdered and disappeared at higher rates than other American women. There are 3.3 million reports of violence against children that result in foster care placements every year; 25 percent of kids in foster care experience PTSD, fewer than 3 percent earn a college degree; 20 percent become homeless after the age of 18; and only 50 percent will be employed by the age of 24. One in five high school students reported being bullied at school during 2017 and cyberbullying impacts many young people. Criminalization disproportionately impacts African Americans and other people of color, including high rates of school suspensions and expulsions and incarceration. African Americans are incarcerated at
more than five times the rate of Whites. Suicide im-
acts young people in both affluent and non-affluent 
communities. In 2015, 17 percent of students con-
sidered attempting suicide. Suicide is the second 
leading cause of death among American Indian and 
Alaska Natives aged 10 to 34. Approximately 20 
veterans a day commit suicide nationwide. About 14 
young people die from homicides each day. Research 
shows victims of one form of violence are more likely 
to experience other forms of violence. A past history 
of violence, including domestic violence; use of alco-
hol or illegal drugs; being young and male; or a per-
sonal history of physical or sexual abuse or trauma, 
increases the risk of more violence, obesity, high-risk 
sexual behavior, depression, academic difficulties, 
school dropout and suicide.

(6) More people have died from guns in the 
United States since 1968 than on battlefields of all 
the wars in United States history. Every year 
250,000 people are killed by gun violence around the 
world, a third of those in Brazil and the United 
States. Firearms are the second leading cause of 
death for American children and teens and the first 
leading cause of death for Black children and teens. 
Every day 47 children and teens in the United
States are shot and 96 Americans are killed by gun violence. During 2017 and 2018, there was one mass shooting almost every day in the United States. Young people go to school wondering where to hide when a shooter enters their classroom. Each gun injury and fatality results in trauma to family members and loved ones.

(7) According to reports by the Institute of Economics and Peace (in this Act referred to as “IEP”), which measures the economic impact of violence and conflict to the global economy, the economic impact of violence to the global economy was $16.5 trillion in 2021. One IEP report found that the regional impact of violence in North America, 99 percent of which can be attributed to the United States, amounted to $2.73 trillion in 2017. If violence containment spending was reduced by 15 percent, the world would save $1.4 trillion, which would be the funding required to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals of halving extreme poverty rates, ensuring healthy lives for all, halting the spread of HIV and AIDS, providing universal primary education, decent jobs, gender equality, promoting peaceful, inclusive and just societies,
and more. Three percent of United States military
spending could end starvation on earth.

(8) Peace is a human right and a security issue. Peace is the essential prerequisite for the survival of humanity as we know it in the 21st century. The United Nations defines human rights as those rights which are inherent to our nature, and without which we cannot live as human beings.

(9) Violence prevention is cost effective. For every dollar spent on violence prevention and peacebuilding, thousands of lives and dollars are saved. Research indicates that investing early to prevent conflicts from escalating into violent crises is, on average, 60 times more cost effective than intervening after violence erupts. The philosophy and techniques of nonviolence and the science of peacebuilding provide tools and techniques that can be applied not only at the levels of individual and community growth, but also within the Federal Government and at national and international levels.

(10) The United Nations recognizes that promotion of peace is vital for the full enjoyment of all human rights and the United Nations Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace mandates that preservation of the right to peace is a fundamental
obligation of each country. In 1999, the United Na-
tions adopted a Programme of Action on a Culture
of Peace, stating that a culture of peace is an inte-
gral approach to preventing violence and violent con-
flicts, an alternative to the culture of war and vio-
ence, and is based on education for peace, the pro-
motion of sustainable economic and social develop-
ment, respect for human rights, equality between
women and men, democratic participation, tolerance,
the free flow of information, and disarmament. The
United Nations declared the years 2001 through
2010 an International Decade for a Culture of Peace
and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, and
the United Nations supports a culture of peace. In
2015, the United Nations adopted 17 sustainable
development goals, including promotion of peaceful
and inclusive societies which recognize the link be-
tween justice, human rights, and government based
on the rule of law and peace.

(11) Peacebuilding is defined by the United Na-
tions as a range of measures targeted to reduce the
risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strength-
ening national capacities at all levels for conflict
management and to lay the foundations for sustain-
able peace and development. Peacebuilding is built
upon research into the root causes of violence in the United States and the world, through promotion and promulgation of effective policies and programs that ameliorate those 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.

(12) In 2000, the Earth Charter Commission released the Earth Charter, an international declaration of fundamental values and principles created to build a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society. The preamble of the Earth Charter provides, “To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace.”. Peacebuilding is working together with all nations to protect both life and land and hold the Earth in balance.

(13) Anthropomorphic climate change threatens not only the earth and all beings, but also impacts the present lives of our children and robs them of
hope for a safe future. A 2021 Lancet global health study of 10,000 youth found 59 percent are “very” or “extremely concerned” about climate change and its impact on their mental health.

(14) Nuclear weapons expose the world to harm on a vast scale. It has long been held that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. Yet, over the next 30 years, the United States plans to spend some $1.7 trillion to replace its entire nuclear weapons infrastructure and upgrade replacement of its nuclear bombs and warheads and the bombers, missiles and submarines that deliver them.

(15) Systemic racism is a significant driver of violence and key obstacle to peace in the United States. Confronting and uprooting systemic racism in America will require efforts by the Federal Government both to properly acknowledge, memorialize, and be a catalyst for progress toward permanently eliminating persistent racial inequities, including through a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation, and to develop material remedies for the institution of slavery, including through a United States Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans.
TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF PEACEBUILDING

SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF PEACEBUILDING.

(a) Establishment.—There is hereby established a Department of Peacebuilding, which shall—

(1) be within the executive branch of the Federal Government; and

(2) be dedicated to peacebuilding, peacemaking, and the study and promotion of conditions conducive to both domestic and international peace and a culture of peace.

(b) Secretary of Peacebuilding.—There shall be at the head of the Department a Secretary of Peacebuilding, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(c) Mission.—The Department shall—

(1) cultivate peace and peacebuilding as a strategic national policy objective;

(2) reduce and prevent violence in the United States and internationally through peacebuilding and effective nonviolent conflict resolution;

(3) strengthen nonmilitary means of peacemaking;
(4) take a proactive, strategic approach in the
development of field-tested best practices and poli-
cies that promote national and international conflict
prevention, nonviolent intervention, mediation,
peaceful resolution of conflict, and structured medi-
ation of conflict;

(5) address matters both domestic and inter-
national in scope;

(6) address the interconnection of all life and
the intersectionality of peace and justice, equality,
health, healing, national security, education, the
economy, rule of law, democracy, planetary survival,
and other aspects of civil rights, civil liberties, and
human rights;

(7) provide an institutional platform for the
growing wealth of expertise in peacebuilding to dra-
matically reduce the national and global epidemic of
violence;

(8) support local communities in finding, fund-
ing, replicating, and expanding programs to reduce
and prevent violence;

(9) invest in nongovernmental organizations
that have implemented successful initiatives to re-
duce and prevent violence, both internationally and
domestically; and
(10) consult with other Federal agencies to apply and practice the science of peacebuilding in their respective fields of responsibility.

SEC. 102. RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, on an ongoing basis—

(1) work proactively and interactively with each branch of the Federal Government on all policy matters relating to conditions of peace;

(2) call on the experience and expertise of individuals and seek participation in the development of policy from private, public, and nongovernmental organizations;

(3) monitor and analyze causative principles of conflict and make policy recommendations for developing conditions of peace and maintaining peaceful conduct;

(4) research effective violence reduction programs and promote and promulgate such programs within the Federal Government and society; and

(5) consult with private, public, and nongovernmental organizations to develop a metric model that provides the means to measure and report progress toward peace in the United States to the President, Congress, and the public, and issue reports on such
progress annually with those reports to be available
to the public on the website of the Department.

(b) DOMESTIC RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Secretary
shall collaborate with governmental and nongovernmental
organizations and individuals to promote personal and
community security and peace by—

(1) developing new policies and supporting ex-
sting policies that effectively address personal and
family violence, including suicide, domestic violence,
spousal abuse, child abuse, and mistreatment of the
elderly and others;

(2) creating new policies and programs and ex-
panding existing policies and programs that effec-
tively reduce drug and alcohol abuse;

(3) analyzing existing policies, employing suc-
cessful, field-tested programs, and developing new
approaches for dealing with the tools of violence, in-
cluding handguns and assault weapons, especially
among youth;

(4) developing new and expanding effective pro-
grams that address and ameliorate societal chal-
lenges such as school violence, gangs, police violence,
hate crimes, economic injustice, human trafficking,
racial or ethnic violence, violence against LGBTQ+
individuals, and police-community relations disputes;
(5) making policy recommendations to the Attorney General of the United States regarding civil rights and labor law;

(6) assisting in the establishment and funding of community-based violence prevention programs, including virtual violence prevention programs for at-home participation, violence prevention counseling and peer mediation in schools and via video conferences, and unarmed civilian peacekeeping and crisis mitigation at a local level;

(7) providing counseling and advocacy on behalf of individuals victimized by violence, including those with mental health challenges;

(8) providing for public education programs and counseling strategies that promote acceptance and respect for the diversity of all individuals in the United States without regard to race, religion, creed, gender and gender identification, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, national origin, class and economic status, and other perceived differences; and

(9) supporting local community initiatives that draw on neighborhood resources to create peace projects that facilitate the development of conflict resolution and healing of societal wounds such as patriarchy, racism, war, manifest destiny, and eco-
nomic injustice to thereby inform and inspire na-
tional policy.

(c) INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Sec-
retary shall—

(1) advise the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State on matters relating to national security, including the protection of human rights and the prevention of, amelioration of, and de-escalation of unarmed and armed international conflict;

(2) contribute to and participate in the development of training of all United States personnel who administer post-conflict reconstruction and demobilization in war-torn societies;

(3) sponsor national and regional conflict-prevention and dispute-resolution initiatives, create special task forces, and draw on local, regional, and national expertise to develop plans and programs for addressing the root sources and issues of conflict in troubled areas;

(4) develop violence prevention, amelioration and violence de-escalation training for the general public to provide tools and educate about peacebuilding skills and to promote sustainable peace, peacebuilding buy-in and peacebuilding awareness;
(5) counsel and advocate on behalf of women victimized by violence, including rape, situations leading up to conflict, conflicts, and post-conflict situations;

(6) counsel and advocate on behalf of victims of human trafficking both domestically and internationally and work to end the trafficking of human beings;

(7) provide for exchanges between the United States and other nations that endeavor to develop domestic and international peace-based initiatives;

(8) encourage the development of international sister city programs, pairing United States cities with cities around the world for artistic, cultural, economic, educational, and faith-based exchanges;

(9) establish and administer a budget designated for the training and deployment of unarmed civilian peacekeepers to participate in multinational nonviolent peacekeeping forces that may be conducted by civilian, governmental, or multilateral organizations;

(10) jointly with the Secretary of the Treasury, strengthen peace enforcement through hiring and training monitors and investigators to help with the enforcement of international arms embargoes;
(11) in consultation with the Secretary of State, bring together all stakeholders who are impacted by a conflict by facilitating peace summits where such stakeholders may gather under carefully prepared conditions to promote nonviolent communication and mutually beneficial solutions and to prevent future violence;

(12) submit to the President recommendations for reductions and elimination of weapons of mass destruction, and make annual reports to the President on the sale of arms from the United States to other nations, with an analysis of the impact of such sales on the defense of the United States, how such sales affect peace and security, and how reduction or cessation of such sales affect peace and security;

(13) in consultation with the Secretary of State, develop strategies for sustainability and management of the distribution of international funds;

(14) advise the Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations on matters pertaining to the United Nations Security Council;

(15) support the implementation of international peacebuilding strategies through a balanced use of peacebuilding, reconciliation, diplomacy, devel-
opment, and defense with the goal of preventing and
ending war and violence; and

(16) encourage all nations to create infrastruc-
tures for peace within their nations and among na-
tions.

(d) MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECRETARY OF
PEACEBUILDING ON THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUN-
CIL.—Section 101(c) of the National Security Act of 1947
(50 U.S.C. 3021(c)) is amended by inserting “the Sec-
retary of Peacebuilding” after “Treasury”.

(e) HUMAN SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Sec-
retary shall address and offer nonviolent conflict resolu-
tion strategies and suggest resources for unarmed civilian
peacekeepers to the appropriate relevant parties on issues
of human security if such security is threatened by conflict
or crisis, whether such conflict or crisis is geographic, reli-
gious, ethnic, gender-based, racial, or class-based in its or-
igin, derives from economic concerns, health concerns or
is initiated through disputes concerning scarcity of natural
resources (such as water and energy resources), food,
health resources (such as life-saving medicine, medical and
protective equipment and supplies, including viral and bac-
terial infection testing supplies and vaccines), trade, or cli-
mate and environmental concerns.
(f) **MEDIA-RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES.**—Respecting the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America and the requirement for free and independent media, the Secretary shall—

(1) seek assistance in the design and implementation of nonviolent policies from media professionals;

(2) study the role of the media in the escalation and de-escalation of conflict at domestic and international levels, including the role of fear-inducing and hate-inducing speech and actions, and making the findings of such study public; and

(3) make recommendations to professional media organizations in order to provide opportunities to increase media awareness of peacebuilding initiatives.

(g) **EDUCATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) consult with the United States Institute of Peace, the Department of Education, Indigenous communities, and other concerned individuals and organizations and develop a peace education curriculum that includes studies of—

(A) the civil rights movement in the United States and throughout the world and human
rights and liberties movements, with special em-
phasis on the role of nonviolence and how indi-
vidual endeavor and involvement have contrib-
uted to advancements in peace and justice;

(B) underlying causes of violence and con-
ditions of peace;

(C) practices that enhance peace and
peacebuilding;

(D) the contributions to the United States
of its diverse ethnicities, races, and religious
communities;

(E) peace agreements and circumstances in
which peaceful intervention has worked to stop
conflict; and

(F) the patriarchal structure of society and
the inherent violence of such structure in the
shaping of relationships and institutions;

(2) in consultation with the Secretary of Edu-
cation—

(A) commission and participate in the de-
velopment of such curriculum and make such
curriculum available to local school districts to
enable the use of peace education objectives at
pre-kindergarten schools, elementary schools,
and secondary schools in the United States;
(B) support in early childhood, pre-kindergarten schools, elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education a well-resourced, balanced education that includes math, environmental stewardship, science, English, history, ethnic studies, economics, justice, critical thinking, social studies, health, physical education, foreign languages, the arts, and music that will prepare students for success in a globally interconnected world; and

(C) offer incentives in the form of grants and training to encourage the development of State peace curricula and assist schools in applying for such grants and training;

(3) work with educators to equip students to become skilled in achieving peace through reflection, and facilitate instruction in the ways of peaceful conflict resolution;

(4) ensure that schools are nonviolence zones that provide a peaceful educational environment;

(5) create school and community cultures where students and staff do not feel threatened and are free from bullying and harassment by developing and implementing curricula in nonviolent conflict resolution education, mindfulness, and restorative
practices for teachers, students, parents, the school
community, and the community at large;

(6) maintain a public website to solicit and re-
ceive ideas for the development of peace from the
wealth of the politically, socially, and culturally di-
verse public;

(7) proactively engage the critical thinking ca-
pabilities, including civic education on citizen duties
to foster democratic principles, of students and
teachers of pre-kindergarten schools, elementary
schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher
education through the internet and other media and
issue periodic reports concerning any submissions
from such students and teachers;

(8) establish a Peace Academy that shall—

(A) be modeled after the military service
academies; and

(B) provide a 4-year course of instruction
in peace education, after which graduates will
be required to serve 5 years in public service in
programs dedicated to domestic or international
nonviolent conflict resolution; and

(9) provide grants for peace studies depart-
ments in institutions of higher education throughout
the United States.
SEC. 103. PRINCIPAL OFFICERS.

(a) UNDER SECRETARY OF PEACEBUILDING.—The President shall appoint an Under Secretary of Peacebuilding in the Department, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. During the absence or disability of the Secretary, or in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Secretary, the Under Secretary shall act as Secretary. The Secretary shall designate the order in which other officials of the Department shall act and perform the functions of the Secretary during the absence or disability of both the Secretary and Under Secretary or in the event of vacancies in both offices.

(b) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint in the Department, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(A) an Assistant Secretary for Peace Education and Training;

(B) an Assistant Secretary for Domestic Peacebuilding Activities;

(C) an Assistant Secretary for International Peacebuilding Activities;

(D) an Assistant Secretary for Technology for Peace;

(E) an Assistant Secretary for Arms Control and Disarmament;
(F) an Assistant Secretary for Peacebuilding Information and Research;

(G) an Assistant Secretary for Human and Economic Rights; and

(H) a General Counsel.


(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “Peacebuilding,” after “Homeland Security,”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “Peacebuilding,” after “Homeland Security,”.

(3) ADDITIONAL OFFICERS.—The President shall appoint 4 additional officers in the Department, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The officers appointed under this paragraph shall perform such functions as the Secretary shall prescribe, including—

(A) congressional relations functions;

(B) public information functions, including providing, through the use of the latest technologies, useful information about peace and the work of the Department;
(C) management and budget functions;

and

(D) planning, evaluation, and policy development functions, including development of policies to promote the efficient and coordinated administration of the Department and its programs and encourage improvements in conflict resolution and violence prevention.

(4) Description of Functions.—In any case in which the President submits the name of an individual to the Senate for confirmation as an officer of the Department under this subsection, the President shall state the particular functions such individual will exercise upon taking office.

(c) Authority of Secretary.—Each officer described in this section shall report directly to the Secretary and shall, in addition to any functions vested in or required to be delegated to such officer, perform such additional functions as the Secretary may prescribe.

SEC. 104. OFFICE OF PEACE EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

(a) In General.—There shall be in the Department an Office of Peace Education and Training, the head of which shall be the Assistant Secretary for Peace Education and Training. The Assistant Secretary for Peace Education and Training shall carry out those functions
of the Department relating to the creation, encourage-
ment, and impact of peace education and training at the
pre-kindergarten, elementary, secondary, university, and
postgraduate levels, and disseminate applicable policies
and research in consultation with entities of the Depart-
ment of Health and Human Services, including—
(1) the Administration for Children and Fami-
lies;
(2) the Administration on Aging;
(3) the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
tion; and
(4) the National Institutes of Health.
(b) PEACE CURRICULUM.—The Assistant Secretary
of Peace Education and Training, in consultation with the
Secretary of Education, Indigenous communities, the
United States Institute of Peace, nongovernmental organi-
izations, public institutions, peace and conflict studies pro-
grams of institutions of higher education, and Federal
agencies that provide effective peace training materials
and curricula, shall create and support the development
and dissemination of effective peace curricula and sup-
porting materials for distribution to the State educational
agency in each State and territory of the United States
and any other interested institutions. Each peace cur-
erculum shall include—
(1) building communicative peace skills and nonviolent conflict resolution skills;

(2) teaching and fostering compassion, empathy, mindfulness, kindness, acceptance, understanding, respect, inclusion, and forgiveness;

(3) teaching about historical and contemporary events utilizing nonviolent and peacebuilding principles to promote a culture of peace and about individuals and organizations employing nonviolent and peacebuilding principles to improve society;

(4) teaching about the benefits of a peaceful society, including economic, health, social, and scientific implications of peace; and

(5) promoting other objectives to increase the knowledge of peace processes.

(e) GRANTS.—The Assistant Secretary of Peace Education and Training shall—

(1) provide peace education grants to institutions of higher education for the creation and expansion of peace studies departments and the education and training of teachers in peace studies, violence prevention, peacebuilding, community building, and nonviolent conflict resolution skills; and

(2) establish a grant program to be known as the Community Peace Block Grant program under
which the Secretary shall make grants to nonprofit
organizations and nongovernmental organizations for
the purposes of developing innovative school and
neighborhood programs for nonviolent conflict reso-
lution and creating local peacebuilding initiatives.

SEC. 105. OFFICE OF DOMESTIC PEACEBUILDING ACTIVI-
TRIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Department
an Office of Domestic Peacebuilding Activities, the head
of which shall be the Assistant Secretary for Domestic
Peacebuilding Activities. The Assistant Secretary for Do-
mestic Peacebuilding Activities shall carry out those func-
tions in the Department affecting domestic peace activi-
ties, including the development of policies that prevent do-
mestic violence and that increase awareness about inter-
vention and counseling on domestic violence and conflict.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Assistant Secretary for
Domestic Peacebuilding Activities shall—

(1) develop policy and disseminate best prac-
tices from the field for the treatment of drug and al-
cohol abuse;

(2) develop community-based strategies for cele-
brating diversity and promoting acceptance;

(3) develop new policies and build upon existing
proven programs to prevent the school-to-prison
pipeline by promoting restorative and conflict resolution practices at pre-kindergarten, elementary, secondary, university, and post graduate levels and in police academies, with funding for teacher, staff, student, and community training in nonviolence, restorative practices, conflict resolution, and diversity understanding and appreciation;

(4) develop new policies and build on existing proven programs—

(A) to assist in the prevention of hate, a culture of violence and domination, violence and crime, including the development of non-threatening, non-harassing community policing strategies, mindfulness, and conflict de-escalation training, and other peaceful settlement skills among police and other public safety officers;

(B) to assist in the re-entry into the community by individuals who have been incarcerated by providing trauma healing, including training in anger management, conflict resolution, peacebuilding skills, life skills, and educational and job skills;

(C) to assist in creating strong, happy, and healthy families, including supporting mental health services, domestic violence prevention,
gang prevention, anti-bullying programs, animal

cruelty prevention, substance abuse prevention,

and the development of peaceful parenting

skills;

(D) to promote peacebuilding and commu-
nity-building and to provide restorative justice

and restorative practice programs at all levels

of the criminal justice system that bring to-
gether offenders, victims, and community mem-
bers in an effort to repair the damage caused

by criminal activity through accountability and

rehabilitation;

(E) to develop violence prevention and vio-

lence de-escalation training for the general pub-
lic to provide peacebuilding tools for all and to

promote sustainable peace, peacebuilding buy-
in, and peacebuilding awareness;

(F) to provide for training and deployment

into neighborhoods of nonmilitary domestic con-

flict prevention and peacemaking personnel, in-
cluding violence interrupters, community safety

task force, and civilian community peace-

keepers;

(G) to implement respectful, non-targeting,

and non-harassing community-based policing to
break down barriers between law enforcement officers and the people such officers serve; and

(H) to encourage and facilitate formation of locally and State-run and administered citizen’s boards to recommend any appropriate training as needed for working compassionately and effectively with local, regional, and State populations and to review and hold accountable actions of all local, regional, and State police and law enforcement departments in the United States;

(5) promote informal and cultural exchanges between individuals and groups of proximate neighborhoods and regions to encourage understanding and acceptance; and

(6) disseminate applicable policies and research in consultation with—

(A) the Department of Justice;

(B) the Department of Health and Human Services;

(C) the Department of State; and

(D) the Department of Education.

(e) GRANTS.—The Assistant Secretary for Domestic Peacebuilding Activities shall establish a grant program to be known as the Cultural Diplomacy for Peace grant
program under which the Secretary shall make grants to
pre-kindergarten schools, elementary schools, secondary
schools, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organi-
zations, and nongovernmental organizations for the pur-
pose of developing domestic cultural exchanges, including
exchanges relating to the arts, sports, science, and other
academic disciplines, that promote diplomacy and cultural
understanding between neighborhoods and members of
such neighborhoods.

SEC. 106. OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACEBUILDING AC-
TIVITIES.

(a) In general.—There shall be in the Department
an Office of International Peacebuilding Activities, the
head of which shall be the Assistant Secretary for Inter-
national Peacebuilding Activities. The Assistant Secretary
for International Peacebuilding Activities shall carry out
those functions in the Department affecting international
peace activities.

(b) Responsibilities.—The Assistant Secretary for
International Peacebuilding Activities shall—

(1) develop new programs and promote existing
proven programs to—

(A) provide for the training and deploy-
ment of graduates of the Peace Academy estab-
lished under section 102(g) and other non-
military conflict prevention and peacemaking personnel;

(B) support national and regional conflict-prevention, de-escalation, and peaceful dispute-resolution initiatives in nations experiencing social, political, medical, or economic strife and among all nations;

(C) develop community building, violence prevention, amelioration and de-escalation training for the general public to educate about peacebuilding skills and to promote sustainable peace, peacebuilding buy-in and peacebuilding awareness;

(D) provide training for the administration of post-conflict reconstruction and demobilization in war-torn societies;

(E) address root causes of violence;

(F) eradicate extreme hunger, infectious and other diseases, and poverty;

(G) eradicate genocide;

(H) achieve universal primary education;

(I) empower women and girls;

(J) eradicate human trafficking; and

(K) eradicate dehumanization and mistreatment of individuals;
(2) support the creation of a multinational nonviolent peace force;

(3) provide for exchanges between individuals of the United States and other nations that are endeavoring to develop domestic and international peace-based initiatives; and

(4) disseminate applicable policies and research in consultation with—

(A) the Department of State;

(B) the Department of Labor;

(C) the Peace Corps;

(D) the United States Institute of Peace;

and

(E) any other applicable entities.

(c) GRANTS.—The Assistant Secretary for International Peacebuilding Activities shall establish a grant program to be known as the International Cultural Diplomacy for Peace grant program under which the Secretary shall make grants to pre-kindergarten schools, elementary schools, secondary schools, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and nongovernmental organizations for the purpose of developing international cultural exchanges, including exchanges related to the arts, sports, science, and other academic disciplines, that
promote diplomacy and cultural understanding between the United States and other nations.

**SEC. 107. OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There shall be in the Department an Office of Technology for Peace, the head of which shall be the Assistant Secretary for Technology for Peace. The Assistant Secretary for Technology for Peace shall carry out those functions in the Department affecting the awareness, study, ethical implications and impact of evolving existing technologies and developing new technologies, including artificial intelligence, mobile technologies, social media, drones, and data science and information, on the creation and maintenance of domestic and international peace, and disseminate applicable policies and research in consultation with appropriate entities of the Department of State.

(b) **GRANTS.**—The Assistant Secretary for Technology for Peace shall make grants for the research and development of technologies in transportation, communications, agriculture, medicine, and energy that—

(1) are nonviolent in application;

(2) encourage the conservation and sustainability of natural resources, including air, water, land, in order to prevent future conflicts regarding scarce resources due to overuse or natural or
human-caused disasters, including climate change and pandemics; and

(3) promote a green, peaceful economy.

SEC. 108. OFFICE OF ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT.

(a) In General.—There shall be in the Department an Office of Arms Control and Disarmament, the head of which shall be the Assistant Secretary for Arms Control and Disarmament. The Assistant Secretary for Arms Control and Disarmament shall carry out those functions in the Department affecting arms control programs and arms limitation agreements.

(b) Responsibilities.—The Assistant Secretary for Arms Control and Disarmament shall—

(1) advise the Secretary on interagency discussions and international negotiations, including discussions involving the United Nations, the Secretary of State, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Secretary of Defense, regarding the increase or reduction and elimination of weapons of mass destruction throughout the world, including the dismantling of such weapons and the safe and secure storage of materials related thereto and efforts to limit or cease development, testing, manufacture or possession of nuclear weapons or threats to use them or to allow
any nuclear arms to be stationed in the territory of any nation;

(2) assist nations, international agencies, and nongovernmental organizations in assessing the locations of the buildup of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction;

(3) develop nonviolent strategies to prevent and deter testing or use of offensive or defensive nuclear weapons, weaponized drones, assault weapons, and other weapons of mass destruction, whether based on land, underground, air, sea, or in space;

(4) serve as a depository for copies of all contracts, agreements, and treaties that address the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and the protection of space from militarization;

(5) provide technical support and legal assistance for the implementation of such contracts, agreements, and treaties;

(6) disseminate applicable policies and research in consultation with the Department of State and the Department of Commerce; and

(7) address and support nuclear waste cleanup at nuclear test sites, nuclear research facilities and laboratories, Superfund Sites of former and present
military bases in the United States and abroad and at lands, in waters, and in the air adjacent to old and new nuclear reactors and nuclear-contaminated sites.

SEC. 109. OFFICE OF PEACEBUILDING INFORMATION AND RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Department an Office of Peacebuilding Information and Research, the head of which shall be the Assistant Secretary for Peacebuilding Information and Research. The Assistant Secretary for Peacebuilding Information and Research shall carry out those functions in the Department affecting research and analysis relating to creating, initiating, and modeling approaches to peaceful coexistence and non-violent conflict resolution and shall make this information available to Congress, the public, and other interested entities on an ongoing basis.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Assistant Secretary for Peacebuilding Information and Research shall—

(1) commission or compile studies on the impact of war, mass shootings, police violence and other types of violence, especially on the physical and mental condition of children (using the 10-point anti-war agenda in the United Nations Children’s Fund report, State of the World’s Children 1996, as
a guide) that shall include the study of the effect of
war on the environment and public health;

(2) commission or compile studies on the im-
 pact of war and other types of violence on soldiers,
veterans and civilians;

(3) commission or compile studies on the effect
of war and other types of violence on the environ-
ment, public health, the economy, and national secu-

(4) commission or compile studies on the im-
 pact of violence, racism and inequality on such con-
ditions of peace as health care, employment, edu-
cation, economic equity, food security, voting rights,
housing, justice, and rule of law;

(5) compile information on effective community
peacebuilding activities and disseminate such infor-
mation to local governments and nongovernmental
organizations in the United States and abroad;

(6) commission or compile research on the ef-
fect of violence in the media, including the use of
untruths, misinformation and false information and
make such reports available to Congress and the
public annually;

(7) commission or compile research on the num-
ber and circumstances of deaths caused by law en-
forcement using guns or other weapons, devices or methods, the number and circumstances of deaths to law enforcement officials caused by guns or other weapons, devices or methods, the effects of gun violence in the United States, and make such reports available to Congress and the public annually;

(8) commission or compile research on the effect of teaching nonviolent conflict resolution skills and practices and social emotional education in schools and disseminate such information to educational institutions, Congress and the public annually;

(9) commission or compile any other such research that will foster understanding of the root causes of violence, the root conditions of peace, and policies and practices to promote a culture of peace;

(10) publish a monthly journal of the activities of the Department and encourage scholarly participation;

(11) sponsor conferences throughout the United States to create awareness of the work of the Department;

(12) make available to the public reports, studies, and compiled research described in this Act; and
(13) where applicable, work to carry out the responsibilities under this subsection in consultation with the United States Institute of Peace and other governmental and nongovernmental organizations, including—

(A) the Department of Health and Human Services;

(B) the Department of Justice; and

(C) the Department of State.

SEC. 110. OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Department an Office of Human Rights and Economic Rights, the head of which shall be the Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Economic Rights. The Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Economic Rights shall carry out those functions in the Department that support the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Economic Rights shall—

(1) assist the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, in furthering the incorporation of the principles of human rights, as enunciated
in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, into all agreements between the United States and other nations to help prevent and reduce the causes of violence;

(2) consult with the Secretary of State, the United Nations, the Atrocities Prevention Board of the White House, the Department of Justice, and other similarly concerned governmental and nongovernmental organizations to gather information on and document domestic and international human rights abuses, including genocide, torture, State executions, police brutality, detention for profit, caging of children and other individuals, murder of unarmed civilians, solitary confinement (especially among children), human trafficking, child soldiers, child labor, and slave labor and recommend to the Secretary nonviolent responses to promote awareness, understanding, and correction of abuses;

(3) make such information available to other governmental and nongovernmental organizations in order to facilitate nonviolent conflict resolution;

(4) provide trained observers to work with nongovernmental organizations for purposes of creating a climate conducive to the respect for human rights;
(5) conduct economic analyses of the scarcity of human and natural resources as a source of conflict and make recommendations to the Secretary for nonviolent prevention of such scarcity, nonviolent intervention in case of such scarcity, and the development of programs to assist people facing such scarcity, whether due to armed conflict, greed, misdistribution of resources, overuse or other human causes, including climate disruption, or natural causes;

(6) conduct economic analyses of the impact of violence within and among nations as a source of human displacement and criminalization, vilification, victimization and mistreatment of those fleeing their homes to seek better and safer lives and make recommendations to the Secretary for nonviolent solutions and development of programs to assist people facing such conditions;

(7) assist the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury, in developing strategies regarding the sustainability and the management of the distribution of funds from international agencies, the conditions regarding the receipt of such funds, and the impact
of those conditions on the peace and stability of the
recipient nations;

(8) assist the Secretary, in consultation with
the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Labor,
in developing strategies to promote full compliance
with domestic and international labor rights law;

(9) conduct policy analysis to ensure that the
international development investments of the United
States positively impact the peace and stability of
the recipient country; and

(10) disseminate policies and research in con-
sultation with appropriate entities of the Depart-
ment of State.

SEC. 111. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON

PEACE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Department
an advisory committee known as the Intergovernmental
Advisory Council on Peace (in this section referred to as
the “Council”). The Council shall provide assistance and
make recommendations to the President and the Secretary
concerning intergovernmental policies relating to peace
and nonviolent conflict resolution.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Council shall—

(1) provide a forum for representatives of inter-
national bodies, the Federal Government, Tribal gov-
ernments, and State and local governments to dis-
cuss peace issues, including practices, traditions and
policies that promote peacebuilding and crises and
wellness issues;

(2) promote better intergovernmental relations
and offer professional mediation services to amelio-
rare and resolve intergovernmental and
intragovernmental conflict as needed, including
elimination of inflammatory rhetoric; and

(3) submit biennially, or more frequently if de-
termined necessary by the Council, a report to the
President, the Secretary, and Congress reviewing the
impact of Federal peace activities on the Federal
Government and on State and local governments.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary shall appoint the
members of the Council.

SEC. 112. FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON PEACE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Fed-
eral Interagency Committee on Peace (in this section re-
ferred to as the “Committee”). The Committee shall—

(1) assist the Secretary in providing a mecha-
nism to assure that the procedures and actions of
the Department and other Federal agencies are fully
coordinated; and
(2) study and make recommendations for assuring effective coordination of Federal programs, policies, and administrative practices affecting peace, peacebuilding and violence prevention, and wellness.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary shall appoint the members of the Committee.

SEC. 113. STAFF.

The Secretary may appoint and fix the compensation of such employees as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Secretary and the Department. Except as otherwise provided by law, such employees shall be appointed in accordance with applicable laws and the compensation of such employees fixed in accordance with title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 114. CONSULTATION REQUIRED.

(a) Consultation in Cases of Conflict and Violence Prevention.—

(1) In general.—In any case in which a conflict between the United States and any other government or entity is foreseeable, imminent, or occurring, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall consult with the Secretary of Peacebuilding concerning violence prevention, non-violent means of conflict resolution, and peacebuilding.
(2) DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES.—In any case in which a conflict described in paragraph (1) is ongoing or recently concluded, the Secretary shall conduct an independent study of diplomatic initiatives undertaken by the United States and other parties to such conflict.

(3) INITIATIVE ASSESSMENT.—In any case in which a conflict described in paragraph (1) has recently concluded, the Secretary shall assess the effectiveness of any initiatives in ending such conflict.

(4) CONSULTATION PROCESS.—The Secretary shall establish a formal process of consultation in a timely manner with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council—

(A) prior to the initiation of policies or withdrawal of resources that may lead to violence and of any armed conflict between the United States and any other country; and

(B) for any matter involving—

(i) the use of Department of Defense personnel within the United States; or

(ii) the proposed or actual distribution of equipment of the Department of De-
fense to local or State law enforcement en-
tities or to other individuals or entities.

(b) Consultation in Drafting Treaties and
Agreements.—The head of each appropriate Federal
agency shall consult with the Secretary in drafting treaties
and peace agreements.

SEC. 115. COLLABORATION.

The Secretary shall, for the greatest effectiveness in
promoting peace and peacebuilding, collaborate with other
Federal agencies, applicable experts, nongovernmental or-
ganization stakeholders, appropriate non-profit organiza-
tion stakeholders and State, Tribal, and local leaders and
stakeholders regarding all related programs in all Federal
agencies. The collaboration shall include and prioritize
those who are most impacted by the programs for the pur-
pose implementing or updating such programs and for the
purpose of evaluating the effectiveness and impacts of
such programs.

TITLE II—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 201. LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SEC-
RETARY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the appoint-
ment of the first Secretary, the Secretary shall prepare
and submit to Congress proposed legislation containing
any necessary and appropriate amendments to the laws
of the United States to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 202. PEACE DAYS.
The Secretary shall encourage citizens to observe and
celebrate the blessings of peace and endeavor to create
peace on Peace Days. Such days shall include discussions
of the professional activities and the achievements in the
lives of peacemakers.

SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
means the Department of Peacebuilding established
under section 101(a).

(2) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “elementary
school”, “secondary school”, and “State educational
agency” have the meaning given those terms in sec-
tion 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-

(3) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal
agency” has the meaning given the term “agency”
in section 551(1) of title 5, United States Code.

(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
term “institution of higher education” has the
meaning given that term in section 101 of the High-
(5) **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.**—The term “nonprofit organization” means an entity that—

(A) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3)); and

(B) is exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Peacebuilding appointed under section 101(b).

**SEC. 204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act such sums as may be necessary.

(b) **LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.**—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a), at least 85 percent shall be used for domestic peace programs, including administrative costs associated with such programs.