



Key Highlights

The primary purpose of a United States Department of Peace will be to reduce and prevent violence domestically and internationally.

The Urgent Need for a Department of Peace

- ❖ Internationally
 - We live in a world in which military solutions alone are entirely insufficient to ensure national security
 - Nuclear arsenals—both those friendly and hostile to the United States—are susceptible to terrorist attack or theft
- ❖ Domestically
 - Criminal and domestic violence place intense pressure on city, county, and state resources (for example, 80% of all police runs in Detroit are in response to domestic violence)
 - The World Health Organization estimates we spend \$300 billion annually just on violence that occurs within our country—meaning every three years we spend almost a *trillion dollars* reacting to violence
 - The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lists violence as a leading public health issue in the United States

Addressing Causal Issues

- ❖ Current policy-making tends toward reactive, not proactive approaches to violence reduction
- ❖ Traditional political problem-solving focuses primarily on addressing *symptoms* of violence, through activities such as imprisonment of offenders and engagement in armed conflict
- ❖ Suppression of symptoms must be augmented by stronger preventative measures and treatment of root causes of violence
- ❖ The United States should be as effective in addressing the sources of violence as we are effective in addressing its symptoms

We Need a Department of Peace to ...

- ❖ Reduce and prevent violence internationally and domestically
- ❖ Gather and coordinate best practices from America's peace community
- ❖ Find, fund and expand programs proven to reduce and prevent violence
- ❖ Expand our nation's civilian capacity for peacebuilding
- ❖ Help teach violence prevention and peer mediation skills to America's school children
- ❖ Focus on eliminating the root causes of terrorism, rather than just preventing the next terrorist attack
- ❖ Support our military with complementary approaches to ending violence, and with post-conflict reconstruction
- ❖ Coordinate the violence reduction and prevention efforts of the U.S. government to ensure a sophisticated, strategic, cost-effective approach

Proposed Federal Legislation to Establish a U.S. Department of Peace

- ❖ Bill was introduced into the U. S. House of Representatives during the 107th, 108th and 109th Congresses
- ❖ In February 2007, during the 110th Congress, the bill was reintroduced into the House of Representatives (H.R. 808)
- ❖ There are currently 70 committed co-sponsors in the House of Representatives
- ❖ Proposed legislation calls for the Department's budget to be the equivalent of 2 percent of U.S. defense budget

The Benefits: International

- ❖ The Department of Peace will:
 - Advise the President, the Secretaries of Defense and State, and others on root causes of violence, plus practical ways to dismantle violence while its still in a formative phase
 - Support the military by:
 - Providing cultural, ethnic and psychologically insightful information, education and technology
 - Offering practical skills (e.g., nonviolent conflict resolution techniques) for the amelioration of violence among adversarial factions
 - Administer the training and support of civilian peacekeepers to participate in multinational nonviolent peace forces

The Benefits: Domestic

- ❖ The Department of Peace will:
 - Develop field-tested educational programs promoting conflict-resolution and peer mediation among school-age children
 - Provide violence-prevention programs addressing domestic violence, gang violence, drug and alcohol-related violence, and the like
 - Provide much-needed assistance for the efforts of city, county, and state governments in coordinating existing programs in their own communities, as well as programs newly developed and provided through the Department of Peace

Responsibilities of the Secretary of Peace

- ❖ In addition to leading the Department, the Secretary shall:
 - Provide the President with statistically verified recommendations on how a specific policy either increases or diminishes the prospect of domestic and international peace
 - Provide the President with recommendations regarding the social and financial impact of domestic and international policies

A U.S. Peace Academy

- ❖ The Department of Peace will create and administer a U.S. Peace Academy, acting as a sister organization to the military service academies
- ❖ The Academy will research and teach the most cutting-edge techniques for the amelioration of violence among domestic and international populations
- ❖ The Peace Academy will join the military service academies in providing assistance to the military in international conflict-resolution
- ❖ The Peace Academy faculty will be derived from well-established practitioners known for best practices in the field of conflict reduction and resolution