

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT A DEPARTMENT OF PEACE

“Actually, there is an urgency to its [Department of Peace legislation] adoption. In this dangerous world, where the strength of the United States is needed to keep the peace, we need a visible manifestation of our intention to play that role, without the arrogance that cost us friends and allies among the nations and peoples of the world.” *Walter Cronkite, former CBS News Anchor*

“Peace, to have any lasting value, must be advanced, expanded and strengthened continuously. Doing so requires skill, dedication, persistence, resources, and most importantly, people.” *U.S. Senator Mark Dayton, D-MN*

“What is more pressing than preventing the violent death or injury of our citizens and of our fellow human beings everywhere? ...How better to support our troops around the Globe than to create a Department of Peace?” *U.S. Representative John Conyers, D-MI, and original co-sponsor of HR 3760 to establish a Department of Peace*

“A Department of Peace would honor the entirety of a human -- our emotional, psychological and spiritual issues as well as merely our material ones. And in doing so, it would address more deeply the entirety of our problems.” *Marianne Williamson, noted author and Chair of The Peace Alliance*

“As much as I admire our military, I have to wonder why we don’t have a similar national structure devoted to peace. Prestigious academies teach the art of war to the finest minds we’ve got, but aside from the mommy mantra ‘hands are not for hitting,’ who’s out there teaching how to create peace?” *Lisa Earle McCloud, syndicated columnist, speaker and author of “Forget Perfect”*

“The establishment of a peace academy, the training of peace workers, the promotion of nonviolent conflict resolution at every level of human interaction – there’s no reason why such projects should be nothing more than the flickering dreams of protestors at candlelight vigils. There’s no reason why they should not be the business of government.” *Robert C. Koehler, syndicated columnist, Tribune Media Services*

“As a nation, this is the moment to start seriously investing our time, energy and resources into proven methods of reducing violence both within our nation as well as internationally. The cost of violence to our culture and our children is simply not sustainable.” *Joaquin Phoenix, Oscar-nominated Actor*

“There really is no department within our government that looks at alternatives to war and violence. This is a department whose time has come.” *U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Oakland*