

Department of Peace and Nonviolence

WHEREAS, on Feb 5, 2007, House Bill 808 was introduced in the United State House of Representatives to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence, which to date has garnered the sponsorship of 68 members of the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation to create a Department of Peace and Nonviolence will establish a cabinet-level department that will be headed by a Secretary of Peace and Nonviolence, who will advise the President on issues both domestic and international in scope, giving peace a building place, voice and budget at the highest levels of government; and

WHEREAS, current levels of violence are very costly to society in the United States: there were 1,886,667 confirmed cases of children wounded, and 2,917 children killed, in the United States by abuse and neglect from March 2003 to April 2005; in 2004 approximately 33% of high school students in the United States say they had been in a physical fight in the past year, and 1 in 8 of those required medical attention for their injuries; in 2004 in the United States an average of 15 young people, ages 10 to 24, per day were killed by gang violence; in 2004 the annual estimated cost of reported violent crime in the United States was \$504 billion; the United States military budget currently exceeds \$600 billion dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation to create a Department of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit Washington State by supporting existing programs and developing new programs to address and reduce the number and frequency of incidents related to domestic violence, child and spousal abuse, school violence, gang violence, gun violence, and hate crimes, and will assist Police Departments in Washington State in experiencing fewer dangerous encounters especially while making routine calls, and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation to create a Department of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit Washington State by developing and distributing to the states and their schools a peace and nonviolence curriculum with supportive materials for community building, communication, nonviolent conflict resolution, and mediation information, skills and resources, and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation to create a Department of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit Washington State by encouraging and supporting development of conflict resolution and violence prevention initiatives from within the community, including its religious and non-governmental organizations, thus creating greater community involvement and thereby a strong, stable and cohesive civil society, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Department of Peace and Nonviolence will promote international peace and reduce military costs by providing for exchanges between the United States and other nations to support domestic and international peace-based initiatives; sponsoring conflict prevention and dispute resolution initiatives to address the root sources of conflict in troubled regions; providing training for personnel to administer post-conflict aid, demobilization and reconstruction in war-torn societies; and

WHEREAS, many local governmental agencies, including 28 cities, including but not

limited to, Atlanta, GA, Gainesville, FL, Detroit, MI, Minneapolis, MN, Newark, NJ, San Francisco, CA, Oakland, CA, and Portland, OR, have passed resolutions in support of the legislation to establish a Department of Peace and Nonviolence, and

WHEREAS, many national and international organizations, including, but not limited to, Amnesty International, Center for Nonviolent Communication, Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy, Physicians for Social Responsibility, September 11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Pax Christi USA, School Mediation Center, Veterans for Peace, and Youth for Environmental Sanity have endorsed the legislation to establish a Department of Peace and Nonviolence,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT [your local County Republican or Democratic Party organization] urges our Washington State Congressional Delegation to sponsor the Department of Peace and Nonviolence legislation in the United States Senate, and to co-sponsor the Department of Peace and Nonviolence legislation, HR808, in the United States House of Representatives, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT [your local County Republican or Democratic Party organization] urges our Washington State Legislature to pass a resolution in support of legislation to establish a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence.

The [full text of HR 808](#) may be found on The Peace Alliance website.

Thank-you everyone for your support of the Department of Peace campaign,

Rena Patty
Dept of Peace Campaign, WA State Coordinator
360-376-6864
rena@rockisland.com