H.R. 808: Department of Peace Act of 2011

112th Congress, 2011–2012

To establish a Department of Peace.

Sponsor:

Rep. Dennis Kucinich [D-OH10]

Status:

Referred to Committee

Bill titles and the summary above are written by the sponsor. H.R. stands for House of Representatives bill.

[HERE ARE THE DISMAL FACTS. Don't let your representatives forget you want this bill to pass. Just as we seek to restrain the out of control
Department of War, we offer a Department of Peace for the future the world needs.) Sign Up for Tracking

If you have one of these accounts, start tracking this bill by clicking an icon to register or log in:

Or register a new account:

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BILL OVERVIEW

Status:
Introduced Feb 18, 2011
Referred to Committee Feb 18, 2011
Reported by Committee (not yet occurred)
Passed House (not yet occurred)
Passed Senate (not yet occurred)
Signed by the President (not yet occurred)

This bill was assigned to a congressional committee on February 18, 2011, which will consider it before possibly sending it on to the House or Senate as a whole.

Prognosis:

This bill has a 3% chance of being enacted. The following factors were considered:

The sponsor is a member of the minority party. (-2%)

A cosponsor in the minority party has a high leadership score. (+3%)

A cosponsor is the ranking member of a committee to which the bill has been referred. (+9%)

Just 4% of all House of Representatives bills in 2009–2010 were enacted.
Cosponsors:

show cosponsors (63)

Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI2]
Brown, Corrine [D-FL3]
Conyers, John [D-MI14]
DeFazio, Peter [D-OR4]
Farr, Sam [D-CA17]
Lee, Barbara [D-CA9]
Lewis, John [D-GA5]
Moore, Gwen [D-WI4]
Norton, Eleanor [D-DC0]
Olver, John [D-MA1]
Polis, Jared [D-CO2]
Sherman, Brad [D-CA27]
Woolsey, Lynn [D-CA6]
Honda, Michael “Mike” [D-CA15]
(joined Mar 01, 2011)
Jackson-Lee, Sheila [D-TX18]
(joined Mar 01, 2011)
Wu, David [D-OR1]
(joined Mar 02, 2011)
Ellison, Keith [D-MN5]
(joined Mar 29, 2011)
Stark, Fortney “Pete” [D-CA13]
(joined Mar 29, 2011)
Pingree, Chellie [D-ME1]
(joined May 05, 2011)
Davis, Susan [D-CA53]
(joined May 26, 2011)
Filner, Bob [D-CA51]
(joined May 26, 2011)
McCullum, Betty [D-MN4]
(joined Jun 01, 2011)
Miller, George [D-CA7]
(joined Jul 06, 2011)
Johnson, Henry “Hank” [D-GA4]  
(joined Jul 20, 2011)

Christensen, Donna [D-VI10]  
(joined Jul 21, 2011)

Andrews, Robert “Rob” [D-NJ1]  
(joined Jul 28, 2011)

Clay, William [D-MO1]  
(joined Jul 28, 2011)

Cummings, Elijah [D-MD7]  
(joined Jul 28, 2011)

Holt, Rush [D-NJ12]  
(joined Jul 28, 2011)

Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH9]  
(joined Jul 28, 2011)

Kildee, Dale [D-MI5]  
(joined Jul 28, 2011)

McDermott, James “Jim” [D-WA7]  
(joined Jul 28, 2011)

McGovern, James “Jim” [D-MA3]  
(joined Jul 28, 2011)

Schakowsky, Janice “Jan” [D-IL9]  
(joined Jul 28, 2011)

Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY8]  
(joined Sep 09, 2011)

Serrano, José [D-NY16]  
(joined Sep 20, 2011)

Hahn, Janice [D-CA36]  
(joined Dec 01, 2011)

Jackson, Jesse [D-IL2]  
(joined Apr 17, 2012)

Richardson, Laura [D-CA37]  
(joined Apr 17, 2012)

Carson, André [D-IN7]  
(joined Apr 19, 2012)

Clarke, Yvette [D-NY11]  
(joined Apr 19, 2012)

Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO5]
Davis, Danny [D-IL7]  (joined Apr 19, 2012)
Green, Al [D-TX9]  (joined Apr 19, 2012)
Hinchey, Maurice [D-NY22]  (joined Apr 19, 2012)
Hirono, Mazie [D-HI2]  (joined Apr 19, 2012)
Larson, John [D-CT1]  (joined Apr 19, 2012)
Rothman, Steven [D-NJ9]  (joined Apr 19, 2012)
Ryan, Timothy [D-OH17]  (joined Apr 19, 2012)
Rangel, Charles [D-NY15]  (joined May 08, 2012)
Grijalva, Raul [D-AZ7]  (joined May 17, 2012)
Hastings, Alcee [D-FL23]  (joined May 17, 2012)
Bass, Karen [D-CA33]  (joined Aug 02, 2012)
Chu, Judy [D-CA32]  (joined Aug 02, 2012)
Fudge, Marcia [D-OH11]  (joined Aug 02, 2012)
Johnson, Eddie [D-TX30]  (joined Aug 02, 2012)
Moran, James “Jim” [D-VA8]  (joined Aug 02, 2012)
Richmond, Cedric [D-LA2]  (joined Aug 02, 2012)
Rush, Bobby [D-IL1]  
(joined Aug 02, 2012)  
Smith, Adam [D-WA9]  
(joined Aug 02, 2012)  
Waters, Maxine [D-CA35]  
(joined Aug 02, 2012)  

Committees:  
House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
House Committee on the Judiciary  

The committee chair determines whether a bill will move past the committee stage.

Primary Source  
THOMAS (The Library of Congress)  
THOMAS is updated generally one day after events occur and events since the last update may not be reflected here.

How to Support or Oppose H.R. 808  
So you want to take a side? Here are some tips on how to be an effective advocate for your issue.

Write a Letter  
Start by writing a letter to Congress using the POPVOX website. Click the button on the right to get started. Does this work? Well keep in mind you are one of around 700,000 residents in your district, many of whom are writing letters just like you are. Congressional offices receive hundreds to thousands of letters each day.

Your representatives want to hear from you (after all, they want to know how to keep your vote next election!). Just keep in mind they couldn’t possibly respond to everyone personally.
POPVOX was co-created by the same guy behind GovTrack and is the most effective way to get your message to your representative and senators.

H.R. 808: Department of Peace Act of 2011  
SPEAK UP at POPVOX
**Band Together**

Strength does come in numbers. Find others who are advocating on the same issue as you, and work with them to send a clear message to Congress.

We can help you find others interested in H.R. 808. Tell us you want to create a group for this bill by clicking the button on the right.

**Be an Information Leader**

One of the hardest parts about advocacy is just finding out what is happening in Congress. Leg work pays off. Here are some starting points:

- Call up the office of the sponsor of the bill and ask about the latest status of the bill, including what committees are considering the bill and if there are any hearings or “markup” meetings scheduled.
- Check out who is cosponsoring the bill. Does it have cosponsors on the committees it is assigned to? Does it have cosponsors in the majority party?
- Read the bill. You will probably have questions about it. Find experts such as academic researchers or lobbyists at nonprofits who can help you wade through the language of the bill.
- Tell others about what you find. They’ll appreciate that you took the time to help others understand their government.
Currently a bill before the U.S. House of Representatives to establish a United States Department of Peace is a historic measure will augment our current problem-solving options, providing practical, nonviolent solutions to the problems of domestic and international conflict. The legislation will pass from bill to law under one condition: that a wave of citizen interest rise up from the people and make itself heard in the halls of Congress.

During the 20th Century, over 100 million people lost their lives to war -- most of whom were non-combatants. At the dawn of the 21st century, the extent and current speed of nuclear proliferation makes the achievement of non-violent alternatives to war the most urgent need of the human race.

A Department of Peace will work to:

- Provide much-needed assistance to efforts by city, county, and state governments in coordinating existing programs; as well as develop new programs based on best practices nationally
- Teach violence prevention and mediation to America's school children
- Effectively treat and dismantle gang psychology
- Rehabilitate the prison population
- Build peace-making efforts among conflicting cultures both here and abroad
- Support our military with complementary approaches to peace-building.
- Create and administer a U.S. Peace Academy, acting as a sister organization to the U.S. Military Academy.
- And more…

Growing rate of domestic incarceration to increasing problems of international violence, the United States has no more serious problem in our midst than the problem of violence itself. Prison-building is our number one industry, and we spend over 400 billion dollars a year on military-related expenditures. Yet there is no platform from which to seriously wage peace. We place no institutional heft behind an effort to address the causal issues of violence, diminishing its psychological force and its power to erupt into material conflict. From child abuse to genocide, from the murder of one to the slaughter of thousands, it is increasingly senseless to merely wait until violence has erupted before addressing the deeper issue from which it springs.

The problem of violence is a many layered one, and its solution will be, as well. While no one action -- governmental or otherwise -- will provide a single solution to such an entrenched and deeply rooted problem, we can treat the problem itself as an all-systems breakdown requiring an all-systems response.

The campaign to establish a U.S. Department of Peace is only one aspect of a fundamental response to the problem of violence, but it is critical. It represents an important collective effort, as American citizens, to do everything we possibly can to save the world for our children's children.

America, there are countless peace-builders and peace-building projects. Those skilled in...
ameliorating the effects of violence - from conflict resolution experts to nonviolent communicators - have proven their effectiveness at treating root causes of violence. Peace is more than the absence of war; it is a state of being predicated on the presence of a peaceful heart. The mission of the Peace Alliance is to realize this vision, moving the realization from the margins of our political dialogue to its rightful, central place within our national understanding. The humanitarian impulse to foster brotherhood and justice is not just an utopian ideal; it is an issue critical to our national security.

Domestically, the Department of Peace will develop policies and allocate resources to effectively reduce the levels of domestic and gang violence, child abuse, and various other forms of societal discord. Internationally, the Department will advise the President and Congress on the most sophisticated ideas and techniques regarding peace-creation among nations.

The Peace Alliance educates and inspires thousands throughout the country with the knowledge, skill and enthusiasm to become powerful citizen activists on behalf of the Department of Peace legislation. Our campaign has citizen organizers working in all 50 states. Local activists are mobilizing a mighty wave of support by working with their members of congress, writing editorials, doing local radio and TV interviews, organizing local talks and trainings, getting city council endorsements, visiting with Police Chiefs, Fire Chiefs, Military Officials, Prison Officials, Directors of Abuse Shelters, School Boards, etc. to share and discuss how a Department of Peace would benefit their community.

Take Action! Tell Congress to get behind H.R. 808, legislation to establish a U.S. Dept. of Peace.
**Updates & Upcoming Events**

**Holiday Cards! "The Gift of Peace"**

We are pleased to announce that we have beautiful 2013 "The Gift of Peace" holiday cards available for pre-order today. This year's peace card features a shimmering globe placed gently in our hands, with the message "The Gift of Peace." It is a beautiful image, accompanied by the simple message within: "the gift of peace on earth lies in each of our hands."

These eco-friendly cards are available for pre-order today!

**Building Structures Growing in Federal Government**

Over the last two years support has grown in Washington to prioritize peacebuilding and to re-organize the Foreign Service to elevate the prominence of peacebuilding within our government. Read an overview of the exciting developments.

Help the Peace Alliance by using our affiliate link to shop on Amazon.
**Become a Peace Partner: Help Sustain our Work**

A myriad of challenges, including war, gang violence, suicide, depression, domestic abuse, workplace conflict, stress and more. At this moment in history it is imperative that we invest in and prioritize work and practices that can help foster the peace that we all desire. We cannot do this without a large-scale constituency working to make it so. That is our core mission and the task before us. It’s why we need your help!

**Stop Bullying: Sign Petition for Safe Schools Improvement Act**

The Safe Schools Improvement Act (S.506 and H.R. 1648) will ensure that:
- Schools and districts have comprehensive and student conduct policies that include clear prohibitions regarding bullying and harassment, including LGBT youth;
- Schools focus on effective prevention strategies and professional development designed to help school personnel meaningfully address issues associated with bullying and harassment;
- more... **Act now!**

**Making Peace a Priority: Advocacy Training Call**

Audio Posted

Do you long to make a difference in the world? Do you want to build-up your skills and confidence to effectively enroll support in a way that actually help shift the world? One of the most profound ways you can make a difference in the world is to effectively engage elected officials and members of your community in a worldview where the work and practices of peace become our organized norm.

**CA Democratic Party Adopts Key Peace Planks!**

Thanks to the hard work of CA Peace Alliance supporters and our partners, the CA Democratic Party adopted a number of key peacebuilding planks into their platform at their 2012 convention, including:
- support of policies that provide domestic violence prevention, gang prevention, anti-bullying, and parenting skills; peace education and
END DEPARTMENT OF PEACE NEWS #2

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Dick Bennett
My blog:
War Department/Peace Department
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/
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