



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

'HISTORIC BILL PROPOSES ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 'U.S. DEPARTMENT OF PEACEBUILDING'

May 8, 2023, Las Vegas, NV - Earlier this year, Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-12), together with 27 original co-sponsors from 15 states, introduced HR 1111. The purpose of HR 1111 is to establish the U.S. Department of Peacebuilding (US DoP). Similar bills, each calling for a cabinet-level Secretary of Peace, have been introduced in every session of Congress for two decades.

A time of unprecedented danger: It is 90 seconds to midnight.

This year, the Science and Security Board of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moved the hands of the Doomsday Clock forward, largely (though not exclusively) because of the mounting dangers of the war in Ukraine. The Clock now stands at 90 seconds to midnight—the closest to global catastrophe it has ever been.

Against the specter of the Doomsday Clock HR 1111 recognizes that: Peace is both a human right and a security issue; and the antithesis of peace - violence - takes many forms in current society and world affairs, from international military incursions and imperialism to local police and gun violence, to bullying, domestic violence, racism and more. The physical, emotional, monetary, and other costs of violence are enormous, cut across all sectors of society in the US and are intrinsically interrelated.

The icon of peace and non-violence, Gandhi, famously said: "If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children." And we stress that all of humanity are the children of the world.

The US DoP legislation calls for prioritizing peace in this nation, and the world, by transforming our culture of violence into a culture of peace. This underscores a need for education, research, community building, inclusion, and reform. It means supporting programs that work and creating new programs and policies that are founded in peace.

By establishing the US DoP we, as a nation, decisively choose to learn and apply the skills of peacebuilding and nonviolence and to work for peace; and HR 1111 become law when enough of us inform our lawmakers that this is how we want our elected officials and governmental systems to represent our values and priorities going forward.

Call to Action – Join [The Peace Alliance](#) -

[Ask your member of Congress to Co-sponsor the Department of Peacebuilding.](#)

[Sign the Petition for a Department of Peacebuilding.](#)

[Endorse the Department of Peacebuilding.](#)

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