

Another Mother for Peace

Spring 2012



“FOR MY MOTHER’S DAY GIFT THIS YEAR, I DON’T WANT CANDY OR FLOWERS, I WANT AN END TO KILLING. WE WHO HAVE GIVEN LIFE MUST BE DEDICATED TO PRESERVING IT. PLEASE TALK PEACE.”

This has been the message of Another Mother for Peace since 1967 when a handful of women gathered around a dining room table and resolved to speak out against the Vietnam War.

There is a lot of talk about peace in Washington these days now that we have withdrawn from the Iraq debacle and are scheduled to begin bringing troops home from Afghanistan in the coming year. But there is also talk of war: Though Iran has yet to produce a nuclear weapon, many are “beating the drums” for an unwarranted preemptive military strike against that country.

Resolutions in both the House (H.Res. 568) and Senate (S. Res. 380) assert that it is in our national interest to prevent Iran from acquiring even the capability to create a nuclear weapon. Further, the resolutions explicitly oppose any U.S. policy that would rely on “containment”—the approach used with the former Soviet Union—as a response to a nuclear weapons capable Iran.

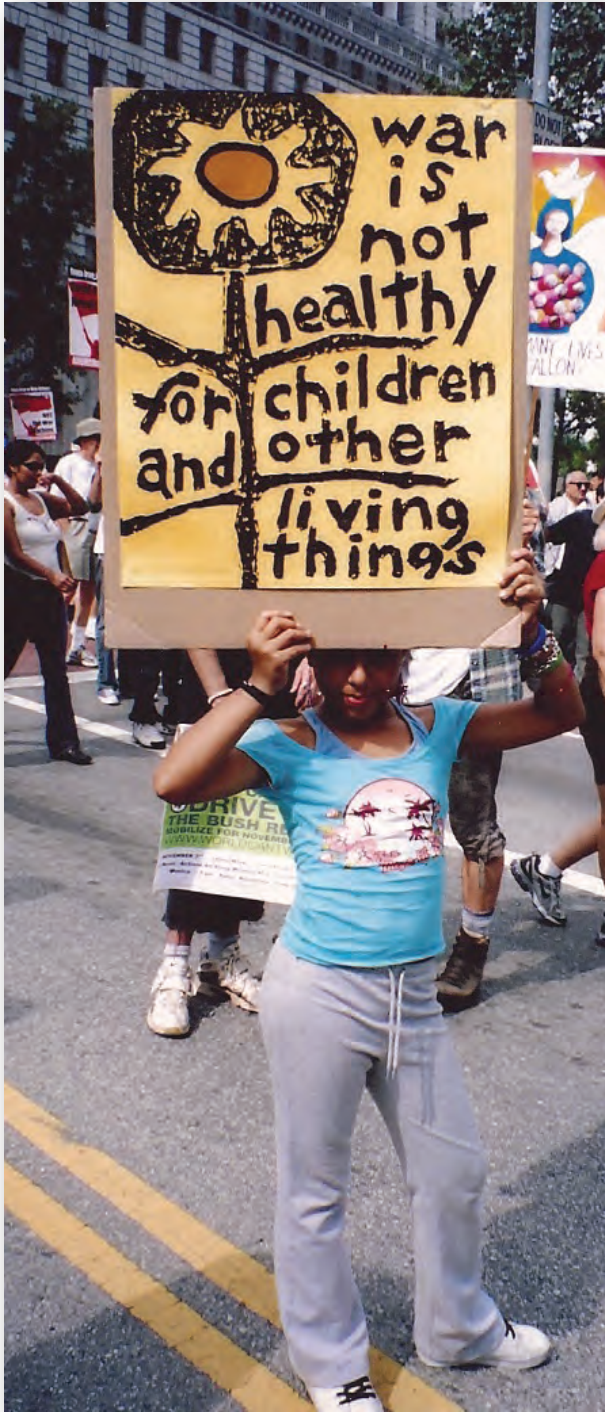
Fortunately, there is a potent voice in the country, of which we are a part, that demands direct diplomacy in order to prevent another war and endless loss of life, along with the economic havoc that would result. Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) recently introduced a resolution (H.R. 4173) that directs the President to rescind the “no contact” rule and appoint a high-level representative or special envoy who would lead U.S. diplomatic efforts with Iran seeking to normalize relations between the two countries.

By going to OpenCongress.org, you can determine if your members of Congress have signed on as sponsors to any of these resolutions. Question their support of H.R. 568 and S. Res. 380 and ask them to co-sponsor H.R. 4173. You can write to them directly through the Open Congress website. Let Congress hear our opposition to yet more military action!

Congress also needs to know that we expect to see nearly one trillion dollars cut from the Pentagon budget over the next ten years: \$487 billion proposed by the President and \$500 billion as outlined by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

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Under this act, when the congressional “super committee” failed to reach a deficit reduction agreement late last year, spending caps for all federal programs were supposed to go into effect, resulting in \$500 billion less for the military over the next decade.



Anti Iraq War Protest
Los Angeles, California – September, 2005

Yet already that \$1 trillion in savings is being whittled away. For example, the President’s budget for FY2013, released in February, does not comply with the Budget Control Act. The military’s share has not been sufficiently reduced and certain “cuts” aren’t really cuts at all. (For a closer analysis of the President’s budget, go to http://fcnl.org/issues/budget/the_latest/index.html.)

Furthermore, the limits set by the Budget Control Act could be by-passed if half the House or 60 members of the Senate agreed to waivers. You can bet that military contractors are already busy on Capitol Hill pleading with Congress to spare their projects.

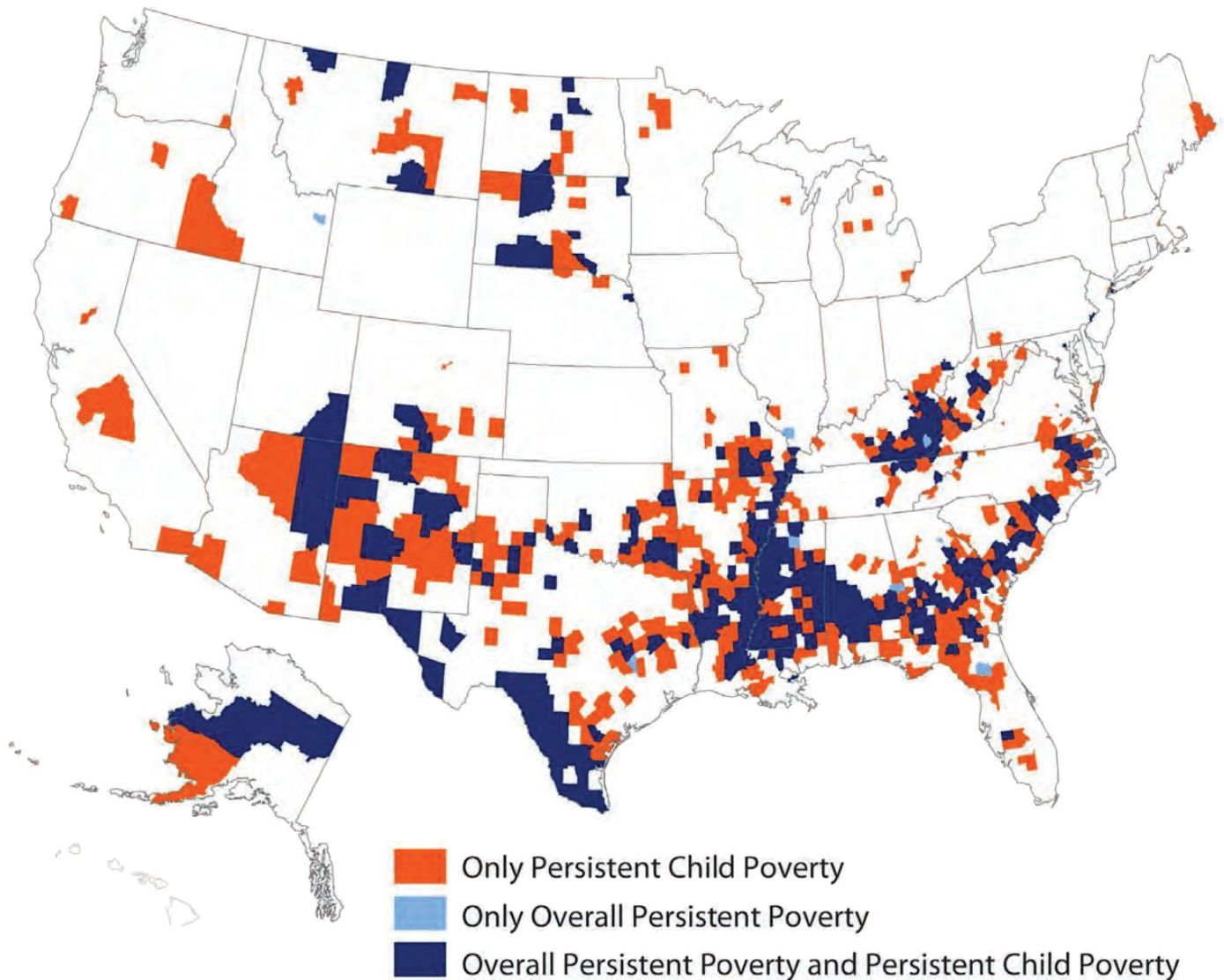
Even if all Congress did was require the Pentagon to cut waste, the savings would be enough to meet the yearly budgets of the Departments of State, Interior, Commerce, Justice and Energy combined. In one year, the Pentagon loses more than \$100 billion from cost over-runs, shoddy bookkeeping, and the inability to keep track of money and inventory.

As mothers, and all of the members of AMP, we don’t just want peace for ourselves, but for our children and children everywhere. In a more rosy economy, and in a time of peace, flowers and candy would be a delightful way to celebrate the day inspired by one woman’s wish to end our sacrifice of loved ones to war. In the day when our government enacts peace as the priority, that rosy economy will be celebrated. For now, we send our most relevant and heartfelt Mother’s Day greeting: *War is not healthy for children and other living things.*

Peace Homework



Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI) has introduced legislation that shows what we could do if the Budget Control Act provisions are enforced and Pentagon spending is reined in. The RISE Out of Poverty Act (H.R. 3573) would rescind the worst features of the so-called “welfare reform” enacted under President Clinton and provide genuine pathways to ending child poverty. For example, the act permits states to extend benefits to youth up to the age of 21, mandates child care for recipients, requires states to provide for a family’s basic economic needs, and allows recipients to seek high education. Tell your Representative to co-sponsor this bill and urge your Senators to introduce comparable legislation.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 1980-2000, ACS 2005-2009

Peace Homework (continued)

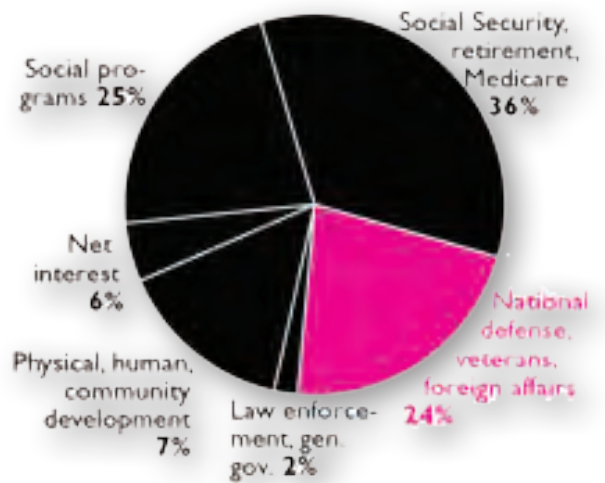
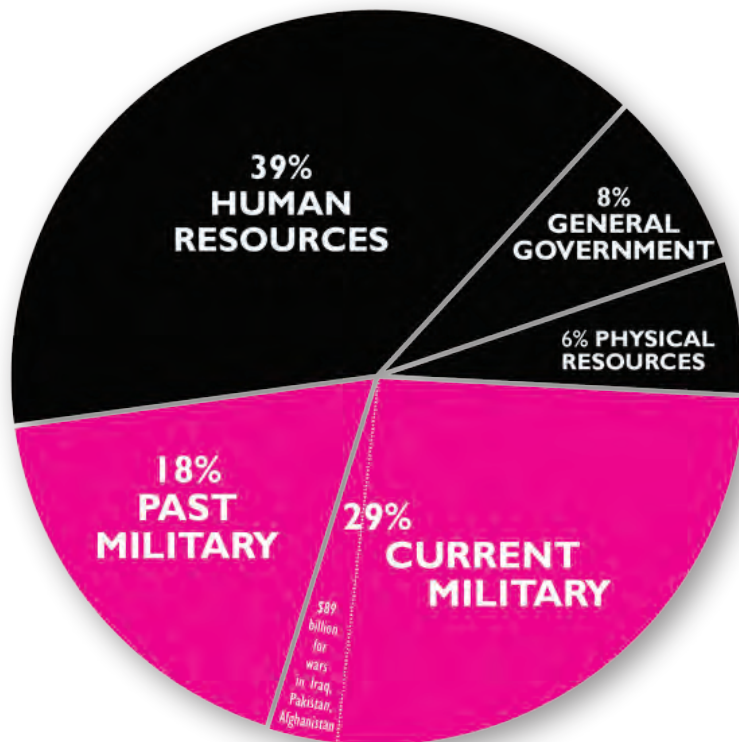
For each dollar of federal income tax we pay in 2011, the government spends about:



Out of every dollar we send to the IRS, a major portion goes to pay for war, past, present and future. Some calculate this misguided spending as 39 cents of every dollar (<http://fcnl.org/assets/flyer/taxchart11.pdf>), others say it's more like 47 cents (<http://www.warresisters.org/node/1325>). These figures are graphically presented in flyers published by the Friends Committee on National Legislation and War Resisters League. Download or purchase flyers and share them with friends, post them on your Facebook page, or put them out where people will find them. Start the conversation about budget priorities!

"Where Do Our Income Tax Dollars Go?" PDF flyer available on Friends Committee on National Legislation Web site at <http://fcnl.org/assets/flyer/taxchart11.pdf>

The government view of the budget on the right (contrast with the pie to the left). Visit the War Resisters League Web site at <http://www.warresisters.org/node/1325> for details and explanations on how these figures were calculated.



Please see notes about how the figures above were reached and why they differ from the government's on the War Resisters League Web site at <http://www.warresisters.org/node/1325>



On Facebook, AMP's subscribers have made over 21,000 "views" of our articles and peace actions just since January 1.

Peace Materials



Medallion \$15.00

◀ “War is not healthy for children and other living things” logo, approximately 1” x 1¼”. Available in gold or silver metallic finish.

Note Cards \$15.00

▶ *Boxed set of 10 cards with matching envelopes. “War is not healthy...” color logo on front, blank inside.*



Pax Materna Poster \$15.00

▶ *Original AMP poster (4¾” x 34”) from 1985. “No mother is enemy to another mother” and “War is not healthy...” logo in 18 languages. On the back is our Pax Materna.*



Embroidered Patch \$5.00

◀ *Our beautiful “War is not healthy...” sunflower logo on a 3” x 3½” patch to sew or iron on.*

Letter Seals \$2.00

◀ *40 self-adhesive seals per sheet. Stamp-size seals with “War is not healthy...” logo. Put these on your mail (and everything else!).*



Toddler Fine Jersey T \$16.00

▶ *Bring the Message of Peace to the Next Generation! Another Mother for Peace now has T-shirts for toddlers in sizes 2, 4 and 6. These are high-quality 100% cotton garments manufactured in the U.S.A. in a “sweat-shop free” environment, carefully tailored in a lightweight knit to fit any active youth. In white with the “War is not healthy for children and other living things” logo silk-screened on the chest by union workers.*



Size	Size:	2	4	6
Guide	Full body length:	15.5”	16.625”	17.75”
	Chest width:	12.625”	13.625”	14.625”



Prices do not include tax or shipping. Visit www.anothermother.org for a complete list of our Peace Materials and to order online.

Another Mother for Peace

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Another Mother for Peace is a non-profit, non-partisan association dedicated to eliminating the use of war as a means of solving disputes among nations, people and ideologies.

I JOIN WITH MY SISTERS IN EVERY LAND IN THE PAX MATERNA – PERMANENT DECLARATION OF PEACE THAT TRANSCENDS OUR IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES. IN THE NUCLEAR SHADOW, WAR IS OBSOLETE. I WILL NO LONGER SUFFER IT IN SILENCE NOR SUSTAIN IT BY COMPLICITY. THEY SHALL NOT SEND MY SON TO FIGHT ANOTHER MOTHER’S SON. FOR NOW, FOREVER, THERE IS NO MOTHER WHO IS ENEMY TO ANOTHER MOTHER.

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