

## Department of Peace

This email is going to all League Presidents in the hopes of this proposal receiving a hearing at your Program Planning meeting.

The LWV Columbia-Boone County has proposed a study of a Department of Peace. The current legislative proposal, HR808, would have a major focus on reduction of violence within the U.S. and another on international armed conflicts.

The two documents attached are:

- 1) a draft of a short statement to be sent to LWVUS which will be considered, and likely with minor modifications, passed at our local Program Planning meeting on Jan.19.
- 2) a 16 page analysis of several aspects related to a Department of Peace. This was developed over the last year by a committee of 20 volunteers from Leagues from Alaska to Rhode Island. It addresses many aspects of the proposal but likely will not answer all of the possible questions. Perhaps you could forward this to a member you think might wish to advocate such a study at your Program Planning meeting.

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Thank you for getting this to your Program Planning meeting.

Richard Parker, Chair, Peace Committee, LWV Columbia-Boone County (MO)

**New Program statement (must be <300 words, actual 269)**

**The LWV of (insert League name) proposes the adoption by LWVUS of a national study in support of violence reduction in the United States and the establishment of a cabinet level Department of Peace.**

A study of the Department of Peace has aspects which fall under two general areas of League positions - Social Policy and International Relations.

The important aspects in the Social Policy area are violence reduction programs through 1) school based educational programs teaching children conflict resolution techniques, and 2) programs reducing domestic violence and the associated violence against children by getting best practice programs widely integrated throughout the country.

In the International Relations area the Department of Peace will focus U.S. attention on 1) training professionals to assist in dealing peacefully with both pre and post conflict situations, and 2) addressing developing problems early in the process before becoming an armed conflict.

An important aspect in both areas is the training of professionals in the discipline of conflict prevention and management. This will be done through a Peace Academy and through grants to develop such programs in educational institutions around the country.

By having a cabinet level Secretary of the Department of Peace there will be greater opportunity to address developing problems early and with a wider set of tools rather than with the more limited tools the government currently has.

The Department's programs resulting in the reduction of violence will have both human and economic value.

# **DEPARTMENT OF PEACE**

**The LWV of Columbia-Boone County (MO) proposes the adoption by LWVUS of a resolution or national study in support of violence reduction in the United States and the establishment of a cabinet level Department of Peace.**

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This material has been developed by a national group, Alaska to Rhode Island, of League members who volunteered at the 2010 National Convention to help develop this Department of Peace proposal which was presented that year by the LWV Columbia-Boone County (MO) Peace Committee.

For additional information or to comment contact Richard Parker at [rbparker1@centurytel.net](mailto:rbparker1@centurytel.net) or phone (573) 256-4397

## SUMMARY

The LWV of Columbia-Boone County proposes the adoption by LWVUS of a resolution or national study in support of violence reduction in the United States and the establishment of a cabinet level Department of Peace.

Over the past several decades the medical profession has focused more and more on "preventive medicine" programs and the management of disease in its early stages. The Department of Peace aims to do this for violence. The U.S. has a well developed ability to intervene after violence has occurred. We have excellent police forces and a very strong military and many social agencies for after the fact intervention. What we need much more of is violence prevention programs.

The League has several positions whose goals will be advanced by a Department of Peace. Two major ones are domestic: **Early Intervention for Children at Risk** and **Violence Prevention**, and two are international: on the **United Nations** and **U.S. Relations with Developing Countries**.

In the domestic arena, voluminous research findings across all disciplines of human behavior and sociology document the long term effects of violence on children. These effects include drug abuse, school failure, juvenile crime, adolescent pregnancy, unemployment, and repeated incarceration, abound throughout our communities. Children from birth through age one year had the highest rate of abuse and neglect. National and international research refutes the generally accepted attitude that child abuse is impossible to prevent. The Department of Peace has an emphasis on promoting best practices by supporting local communities in identifying, funding, replicating, and expanding programs to reduce and prevent violence. The Department of Peace will apply a rigorous scientific approach to developing policy alternatives and identifying the most effective field-tested programs for reducing violence and its consequences. The current important but scattered, and poorly funded, programs exist which would be consolidated and coordinated by the Department of Peace and funding would be greatly increased. As the federal Center for Disease

Control and Prevention have raised public health professionalism and effectiveness for our dramatic decreases in disease mortality and morbidity, federal leadership in violence prevention will achieve similar effectiveness in just a few years of decades. Eighty-five percent of the proposed budget will be spent within the U.S. A major economic growth area in the last few decades has been expansion of prisons, an "after the problem has occurred" solution. The Department of Peace makes prevention its highest funding priority. A cabinet level department affords a national spotlight and would help forward the League's positions.

The Department of Peace has a strong educational component which will produce professionals in violence prevention practices both by grants to Peace Studies programs in higher education and from the Peace Academy. The Academy will provide a 4-year course of instruction in peace education, after which graduates will be required to serve 5 years in public service in programs dedicated to domestic or international nonviolent conflict resolution. The Department of Peace would also proactively engage the critical thinking capabilities of grade school, high school, and college students and teachers through the Internet and other media and issue periodic reports.

In the international field the League has strong positions on the **United Nations** and on **U.S. Relations with Developing Countries**. The Department of Peace will support these positions with an emphasis on strengthening nonmilitary means of peacemaking and early identification of potential conflicts. It will apply best practices in nonviolent dispute resolution to create peace and prevent violent conflict. The Department of Peace will help to achieve stabilization after conflict to prevent further conflict. It will focus on long term development in emerging economies of conditions that are conducive to both domestic and international peace. Again, the Department of Peace will use grants, some to Non-Governmental Organizations (as the League supports). It will also produce professional graduates of the Peace Academy who are committed to 5 years of public service, as well as professional graduates from Peace Studies programs.

The mission of the Department of Peace *shall be to hold the cultivation of peace as a strategic national policy objective*. By being a cabinet level department, violence prevention at home and abroad will receive a hearing when problems are first being considered, thus greatly enhancing adoption of preventive measures.

Nobody is opposed to violence reduction and peace. Objections to the League supporting the Department of Peace seem to come from three areas: 1. Cost, 2. A Department of Peace cannot replace the role of the military and police, and 3. It cannot overcome the human tendency toward violence. The Department of Peace is not intended to replace police or the military. Both will continue to be required but the Department of Peace can reduce their work load. A number of domestic programs, e.g. Nurse - Family Partnership, have demonstrated effective violence reduction of child abuse and neglect. People are able to change their behavior and well designed programs do help. Ninety one years ago, as Carrie Chapman Catt was helping found the LWV, she was one of the most prominent advocates for a Department of Peace. We now have a timely opportunity to follow her lead and accomplish that goal.

The Department of Peace budget, though a substantial increase in violence prevention spending, is less than 1% of that currently spent addressing the consequences of violence, and the public spends half that again. Small successes in violence prevention would easily cover the costs. We should emulate the medical profession by advocating prevention. **1% for peace** is a small investment for a huge potential in effective violence and conflict prevention.

## **DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND LWVUS DOMESTIC POSITIONS**

A United States Department of Peace, proposed in the 1920's by Carrie Chapman Catt, the initiator of the League of Women Voters, is entirely consistent with four League positions. Two of these positions strongly support the key strategies for effective work in the U.S. by a Department of Peace.

The first, the League Position on EARLY INTERVENTION FOR CHILDREN AT RISK, was adopted in 1994. (See p. 73 of 2010 – 2012 League Issues) This position is founded on “early intervention”. Voluminous research findings across all disciplines of human behavior and sociology document the long term effects of violence on children. These effects, drug abuse,

school failure, juvenile crime, adolescent pregnancy, unemployment, and repeated incarceration, abound throughout our communities. The most recent and comprehensive research on the national incidence of all forms of child maltreatment was completed in 2006 and published in April 2009. Children from birth through age one year had the highest rate of victimization. While generally accepted attitudes about child abuse believe it is impossible to prevent – as so many still believe war is inevitable - national and international research refutes this. All U. S. child maltreatment rates of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse dropped 25% from 1993 to 2006. Comprehensive early intervention programs such as the Nurse-Family Partnership now active in 20 states, Parents as Teachers operating in all 50 states, universal newborn visiting, Community Parenting Centers, statewide coordinated Child Advocacy Centers interventions against physical and sexual abuse of children, sexual assault, and domestic violence in all 50 states, and on-going social marketing that promotes conflict resolution and violence prevention continue to decrease child abuse and domestic violence. These are precisely the strategies which a Department of Peace will lead.

The second, the League position on VIOLENCE PREVENTION, was adopted in 1994. (See pp. 74 of 2010 – 2012 League Issues) This position clearly supports use of tax payer funds for prevention of violence. Because only a minority of the public now makes the connection between effects of early childhood abuse and later social dysfunction and violence, traditional public funding priorities continue wasting tax payer dollars. One such area has supported a major U. S. growth industry, prisons. State and national legislators, in concert with privately owned prison enterprises, have given funding preference to convicting and locking up offenders. This is third stage (tertiary) prevention. It is very expensive. It also sustains the revolving doors of recidivism. A Department of Peace strategy that makes primary prevention its highest funding priority and is afforded the national spot light of cabinet level importance will put this League position into action.

Sissela Bok, in her early 1989 philosophical book, *A Strategy for Peace*, explains our major obstacle is failure of trust. She noted a global increase in trust after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Then more of the United States' public learned that open, nonviolent action succeeds while violent, terrorist actions do not. From that paradigm-shifting day in November 1989, numerous civil wars, insurrections, terrorist acts, military invasions, reactive insurgencies, and continued profitable gun and weapon proliferations reteach this lesson. In contrast, persistent nonviolent human rights campaigns such as the anti-apartheid campaign in South Africa show amazing success. In such campaigns, both political leaders and citizens were able to begin to trust each other enough to practice civil discourse and basic human respect.

As we remember the key means for successful child abuse and domestic violence prevention – loving attachment of child with respectful and nurturing adult parent – we experience human capability for trust. Without such loving infant attachment, the seeds of mistrust, incivility, violent acting out, and emotional susceptibility to military slogans and making war are planted and grow. A U. S. Department of Peace that promotes, funds, and oversees prevention of child abuse, domestic violence, and bullying will help populate our society with loving, attached children who trust and bring us closer to lasting human peace.

## DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND LWVUS INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS

The League has a strong position in support of the UNITED NATIONS. The position calls for **full and active participation of the United States in the UN system, preventive deployment of UN peacekeepers to forestall the outbreak of hostilities, and an enhanced capacity to respond rapidly and effectively to contain conflict and establish a just and stable peace.**

The Department of Peace (DOP) aims to increase the emphasis on these preventive peaceful approaches to achieving these goals. The DOP *holds the cultivation of peace as a strategic national policy objective.* The DOP emphasizes an approach to *strengthen nonmilitary means of peacemaking and use field-tested programs, to promote best practices in nonviolent dispute resolution to create peace, prevent violence, prevent armed conflict.*

The DOP's Peace Academy, structured like the military academies, will train students to carry out field tested programs during their *required 5 years in public service in programs dedicated to domestic or international nonviolent conflict resolution.* The DOP will also *participate in the development of training of all United States personnel who administer post-conflict reconstruction and demobilization in war-torn societies.*

The League states that **non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have an important role to play in peace operations.** The DOP aims to *invest in non-governmental organizations that have implemented successful initiatives to reduce and prevent violence, both internationally and domestically* thus effectively using this under-utilized resource.

The League's position on U.S. RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES states that **paramount among these interests are reducing the risk of military conflict**, similar to items addressed above. In addition, the League advocates **supporting regional approaches to conflict resolution** and the DOP supports country and regional conflict prevention and dispute solution initiatives. The League also encourages **cooperative efforts to promote the sound management of global resources** and the DOP encourages the conservation and sustainability of natural resources in order to prevent future conflicts regarding scarce resources.

There is extreme overlap between the League positions and the goals of the Department of Peace. Above **bold type** shows direct quotes from the League position and *items in italics* are direct quotes from H. R. 808, the bill to create a Department of Peace.

## CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT

1859 - 1947

Carrie Chapman Catt devoted her life to women's suffrage and peace.

Carrie said that she became a suffragist at the age of 13 when she realized that her mother could not vote in the 1872 presidential election. College led to her discovery that she had a gift for public speaking. In 1885 she married Leo Chapman who died the following year. She started public speaking on women's suffrage by 1887. Carrie was made recording secretary at the 1889 Iowa suffrage convention. Married again in 1890, this time to George Catt, a man who was very supportive of her suffragist activities. Susan B. Anthony, immediately on becoming

President of the National American Women's Suffrage Association (NAWSA) in 1892, brought Carrie into the organization to tap her strong organizational skills and speaking ability. 1900 saw Catt elected to be President of the NAWSA. In 1904 Catt became involved in the formation of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance (IWSA) and continued working internationally along with her other duties until her death. That same year she resigned the Presidency of NAWSA when her husband became ill, whom she cared for him until his death a year later. After George's death she went back to working for suffrage in the U.S. and internationally. Catt was again elected President of NAWSA in 1916, a position she held until its dissolution after the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote passed in the House.

Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the formation of the League of Women Voters in 1919 as a follow on to the NAWSA. Catt and Mrs. Brooks wrote that year that the LWV would be "a union of all intelligent forces within the state" to attack "illiteracy, social evils, industrial evils." It would be political but not partisan. When the LWV was created in 1920 it was to be "an ongoing organization to secure political education and improve legislation." Catt turned down the chair of the LWV but was appointed Honorary Chair.

"Among the speeches interspersing the (first LWV) convention's working sessions was a moving indictment of the horrors of war by Will Irwin, a well-known war correspondent. Catt was to follow with a talk on the psychological aspects of politics; but so stirred was she by Irwin's remarks that she dramatically tore up her prepared text and made an extemporaneous plea for an all-out campaign for peace. Since the politicians had rejected the League of Nations, new solutions would have to be fashioned. "The women in this room can do this thing," she cried. "Let us do it." " (Louise Young, In the Public Interest, The League of Women Voters, 1920-1970 p. 58)

By 1925, Catt had committed herself to world Peace. That year "she led the first meeting of the Committee on the Cause and Cure of War." She chaired this committee for its first 7 years and worked for peace until her 1947 death.

## **OVERVIEW OF H. R. 808 - DEPARTMENT OF PEACE**

THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF A UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF PEACE WILL BE TO RESEARCH, FACILITATE, AND ARTICULATE NONVIOLENT SOLUTIONS TO DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT.

It typically takes several years for major bills to be enacted. Below is a small selection from the current version of a Department of Peace, H. R. 808. Representative Kucinich also introduced this in 2011.

111th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 808

To establish a Department of Peace.

SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF PEACE.

(a) Establishment- There is hereby established a Department of Peace (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the 'Department'), which shall-

(1) be a cabinet-level department in the executive branch of the Government; and

(2) be dedicated to peacemaking and the study of conditions that are conducive to both domestic and international peace.

(b) Secretary of Peace- There shall be at the head of the Department a Secretary of Peace

(c) Mission- The Department shall--

(1) hold the cultivation of peace as a strategic national policy objective;

(2) reduce and prevent violence in the United States and internationally through peacebuilding and effective nonviolent conflict resolution;

(3) strengthen nonmilitary means of peacemaking;

(4) work to create peace, prevent violence, prevent armed conflict, use field-tested programs, and promote best practices in nonviolent dispute resolution;

(5) take a proactive, strategic approach in the development of policies that promote national and international conflict prevention, nonviolent intervention, mediation, peaceful resolution of conflict, and structured mediation of conflict;

(6) address matters both domestic and international in scope;

(7) provide an institutional platform for the growing wealth of expertise in peacebuilding to dramatically reduce the national and global epidemic of violence;

(8) support local communities in finding, funding, replicating, and expanding programs to reduce and prevent violence;

(9) invest in non-governmental organizations that have implemented successful initiatives to reduce and prevent violence, both internationally and domestically; and

(10) work with other government agencies to apply and practice the science of peacebuilding in their respective fields of responsibility.

#### SEC. 102. RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS.

(f) Educational Responsibilities- The Secretary shall

(7) create and establish a Peace Academy, which shall

(A) be modeled after the military service academies; and

(B) provide a 4-year course of instruction in peace education, after which graduates will be required to serve 5 years in public service in programs dedicated to domestic or international nonviolent conflict resolution.

#### SEC. 104. OFFICE OF PEACE EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

(b) Peace Curriculum- ... shall support the dissemination and development of effective peace curricula ... include(ing) the building of communicative peace skills, nonviolent conflict

resolution skills....

- (1) provide peace education grants
- (2) create a Community Peace Block Grant program

#### SEC. 113. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act for a fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act \$10,000,000,000 for each fiscal year. Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to such authorization, at least 85 percent shall be used for domestic peace programs, including administrative costs associated with such programs.

#### SEC. 202. TRANSFERS.

- (1) the Peace Corps;
- (2) the United States Institute of Peace;
- (3) the Office of the Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Affairs of the Department of State;
- (4) the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; and
- (5) the Safe Futures program of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice.

## HISTORY ON THE DEPARTMENT OF PEACE

- In 1925, [Carrie Chapman Catt](#), suffragette leader, first proposed a Department of Peace headed
- by a Cabinet level Secretary of Peace at the First Conference on the Cause and Cure of War, which Catt organized. It was held in Washington DC, from January 18–25, 1925, and had 450 delegates from nine organizations representing five million women members.
- In 1935, 1937, and 1939, Senator [Matthew Neely](#) of [West Virginia](#) introduced bills calling for a Department of Peace.
- In 1943, Senator [Alexander Wiley](#) of [Wisconsin](#) spoke on the Senate floor calling for the United States of America to be the first government in the world to have a Secretary of Peace.
- Over 100 bills have been introduced into Congress since the end of World War II to create a Department of Peace in the federal government:
  - 1945 Representative [Louis Ludlow](#) of Indiana introduced a bill that would establish a Department of Peace.
  - 1946 Representative [Jennings Randolph](#) introduced legislation to establish a [Department of Peace](#) with the goal of strengthening America's capacity to resolve and manage international conflicts by both military and nonmilitary means. In the 1970s and 1980s he joined Senators [Mark Hatfield](#) and [Spark Matsunaga](#) and Congressman [Dan Glickman](#) in efforts to create a national institution dedicated to peace. After he had announced his retirement from Congress in 1984, Randolph played a key role in the passage and enactment of the [United States Institute of Peace](#) Act. To guarantee its passage and funding, the legislation was attached to the Department of Defense Authorization Act of 1985. Approval of the legislation was in part a tribute to Randolph's long career in public service. The Jennings Randolph Program, which awards fellowships to enable outstanding scholars, policymakers, journalists, and other professionals from around the world to conduct research at the U.S. Institute of Peace, has been named in his honor.
  - 1955-1968 Eighty-five bills calling for a Department of Peace were introduced in the House or the Senate.
  - 1969 Senator [Vance Hartke](#) of Indiana and Representative [Seymour Halpern](#) of New York introduced legislation to create a Department of Peace in the House of Representatives and the Senate.
  - 1984 President [Ronald Reagan](#) signed into law the creation of the [United States Institute of Peace](#).<sup>[24]</sup>
  - 2001 and 2003 Representative [Dennis Kucinich](#) of Ohio introduced legislation to create a Department of Peace.
  - September 2005 Representative Dennis Kucinich of Ohio and Senator [Mark Dayton](#) of Minnesota introduced legislation to create a Department of Peace and Nonviolence in the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively.

The 21st century legislation to create the United States Department of Peace & Nonviolence introduced in July 2001, gained 45 cosponsors during that session of congress. With the 108th Congress the movement grew to 53 Congressional cosponsors, and 75 Congressional cosponsors in the 109th congress. A list of the Congressional cosponsors can be viewed at the Library of Congress.<sup>[25]</sup>

Kucinich has also introduced this legislation in 2007, 2009 and 2011. It is H. R. 808, To establish a Department of Peace.

## **1% FOR PEACE AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

Funding for the prevention of violence needs to be substantially increased. Our society's emphasis has been to confront violence after it has occurred. We need to take the public health and preventive approach the medical community has increasingly emphasized over the last 50 years in managing chronic diseases through prevention, early detection and management. We are 50 years behind medicine in this preventive approach to violence in the U.S. and internationally.

A few programs with this approach do exist in the federal government. A couple of these are the Peace Corps and the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program. These and others will be transferred to the Department of Peace. Their combined budgets amount to less than 0.07% of what we spend on violence treatment. We could achieve much more with a dedicated, coordinated effort using a research based approach to testing and evaluating programs and then emphasizing wide spread adoption of best practices in violence prevention.

We will never eliminate the need for police and the military, but even small successes in prevention, as in medicine, can have a major fiscal impact.

The proposed budget of \$10 billion for the Department of Peace is slightly less than 1% of the regular governmental spending on violence treatment. The comparison ignores the \$500 billion cost to U.S. citizens from violence that still abounds in our society.

### **PREVENTIVE VIOLENCE**

Over the past several decades public health and medical professionals have focused more and more on "preventive medicine" and the management of disease in its early stages. The Department of Peace aims

to do this for violence.

The U.S. has a well developed ability to intervene after violence has occurred. We have excellent police forces and a very strong military. What we need much more of is "preventive violence" programs.

The proposed activities for the Department of Peace are designed to promote, research, field test, and achieve wide spread adoption of best practices to reduce domestic violence, gang violence, bullying, recidivism, police-community conflict and the training of professionals in these areas. There are also programs aimed at providing professionals skilled in defusing the causes of tension internationally and in de-escalating tensions after armed conflict has occurred. We need a huge increase in "preventive violence" programs.

## **CABINET LEVEL DEPARTMENT OF PEACE**

The Department of Peace needs to be a cabinet level department. Departments are brought in at this level when there is a need for that area to be heard in basic deliberations on policy. Of the eleven departments in the Cabinet six have achieved that status within the last 50 years. It is time to bring the approach of preventing violence to the table where it will be heard early in deliberations and is not just an afterthought when policies are already well established.

## **ARGUMENTS AGAINST A DEPARTMENT OF PEACE**

The ideas in the Department of Peace go counter to human nature. We instinctively fight in response to threats. So far modern science has been unable to identify the causes of violence and unable to develop teaching strategies which overcome our instinctive reactions to fear. War has developed a romantic aspect in the culture partly because it permits

usually prohibited behaviors. We have a need for the super-heroes which war permits. Violence is so deeply imbedded in the human psyche that there will always be bad people we must fight. Only very rarely have individuals been able to live without violence, Ghandi and a few others, and the organized groups who have tried it have been thoroughly marginalized, i.e. Quakers & Shakers.

Domestic violence, bullying, and child abuse within the U.S. continues at high levels despite spending millions trying to reduce it. It is a waste of effort to try.

War is inevitable, so we must maintain a strong military to protect us from the evil which exists in the world. A Department of Peace would undermine this necessity.

We do not need a Department of Peace because the current police and military systems can adequately deal with the problems we have. The Department of Peace would simply be another government bureaucracy putting the country further in debt. The economy would be badly damaged by significantly upsetting the existing economic structure which depends upon spending to support the military, and recent political attempts have inevitably been trumped by the economic groups which would lose resources if the military was needed less.

We need the military to deal with problem countries. The Department of Defense and the State Department already work to reduce international conflict and a Department of Peace would undercut their efforts and reduce our ability to maintain peace internationally. We already have a U.S. Institute for Peace which is doing much of what is proposed. It is an independent agency, and unlike the Department of Peace, is not subject to political pressure.

The LWV has limited resources and many other issues which need to be addressed. The chance of a Department of Peace being passed is so low that we should not waste our effort supporting it. It is even possible that the legislative response would be to rename the Department of Defense the Department of Peace, thus completely undermining the concept of peace.