

Department of Peace and Nonviolence

WHEREAS House Bill 808, to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence, was introduced in the United State House of Representatives on Feb 5, 2007, and since then has won the sponsorship of at least 68 members of the House; and

WHEREAS HB 808 provides for establishment of a cabinet-level department headed by a Secretary of Peace and Nonviolence, who will advise the President on issues both domestic and international in scope, giving peace a 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, with 1,886,667 confirmed cases of children wounded and 2,917 children killed by abuse and neglect from March 2003 to April 2005, and an average of 15 young people (ages 10 to 24) killed daily by gang violence in 2004; and

WHEREAS HB 808 will benefit this state and other states by (1) supporting existing programs and developing new programs to address and reduce the number and frequency of incidents of domestic violence, child and spousal abuse, school violence, gang violence, gun violence and hate crimes, (2) developing and distributing peace and nonviolence curricula to the states and their schools, and (3) encouraging and supporting development of conflict resolution and violence-prevention initiatives from within the community; and

WHEREAS the proposed Department of Peace and Nonviolence will promote international peace and reduce military costs by (1) providing for exchanges between the United States and other nations to support domestic and international peace-based initiatives, (2) sponsoring conflict prevention and dispute resolution initiatives to address the root sources of conflict in troubled regions, and (3) 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, have passed resolutions in support of the legislation to establish a Department of Peace and Nonviolence, as have 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;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we urge our Washington State Congressional Delegation to sponsor the Department of Peace and Nonviolence legislation in the United States Senate and to co-sponsor of such legislation (HB 808) in the House of Representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT we urge our Washington State Legislature to pass a resolution in support of legislation to establish a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence.

Adopted _____ by _____