

# SB-51

Allocating a certain subset of the Department of Defense's budget towards peacemaking, preventing conflict, and identifying hot zones for conflict before violence erupts instead of combatting tension with violence and more hatred.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Mr. Omeish of Virginia introduced the following bill;

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## A BILL

Allocating a certain subset of the Department of Defense's budget towards peacemaking, preventing conflict, and identifying hot zones for conflict before violence erupts instead of combatting tension with violence and more hatred.

*Be it enacted by The American Legion Boys Nation Senate assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of "Peace" Act".

### SECTION 2. BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS

The following has been recalled for background:

(1) The United States has only 21 years of full tranquility and disengagement from war to its name--globally or domestically. The Constitution of the United States drives the people to "insure domestic tranquility" and "promote the general welfare." America is the strongest nation in the world;

it must carry that responsibility in peacemaking and mitigating conflict.

(2) During the 20th century, over 100 million people, soldiers and civilians, died because of war. The citizens' of America's lifetimes have not been filled with a time where there has been just peace and no violence.

(3) In 2020, the United States had to pay \$6.4 trillion in costs related to worldwide wars and an additional \$1 trillion to care for veterans of these wars that have been injured, unemployed, or require care.

(4) The World Health Organization reports that non-war violence has cost around \$300 billion annually in the United States; the global economic impact of violence, including war, is \$14.4 trillion. Investing early to prevent conflicts from escalating to full-on wars through peacemaking ways has proven to be around 60 times more cost effective than trying to stop conflict after violence ensues.

### **SECTION 3. ACTIONS TO INCLUDE AND PRIORITIZE PEACEMAKING IN AMERICA'S AGENDA**

Portion of the Department of Defense's \$773 billion budget will be taken out and used for peace-related efforts in areas of war or impending violence--

(1) Ten percent of the Department of Defense's funding will be dedicated to solely peacemaking strategies and initiatives.

(a) Funds will be used to support stabilization of areas with conflict and an impending war to prevent violence;

(b) Funds will be used to assist areas at risk from control of terrorist organizations or extremist organizations that could spur violence or instability;

(2) In coordination with United Nations peacekeepers and the United States Institute of Peace, certain regions of the world will be marked as unstable and in need of peacekeeping. This will range from areas like East Africa to South Asia to South America.

(3) Staff will be tasked to travel to these potentially unstable areas and partake in peacemaking

activities including: educating the public on certain issues specific to that region, improving cultural awareness, and training citizens on triggers to the potential violence in that region for them to avoid those situations.

(a) Other tasks to mitigate conflict and prevent violence from erupting can include working with community leaders to build peace, training women; children; youth; and religious leaders to be peacemakers, helping establish a legal system agreed upon by the leaders in said regions/countries.

(4) These efforts promote peace which then leads to harmony and tranquility. War will be prevented and the unbearable costs that come with war will not burden anyone.

#### **SECTION 4. REVIEW OF EFFICACY AND SUCCESS**

(1) Each year, the actions of the Department of Defense's new peace branch (Department of "Peace") will be reviewed by the Secretary of Defense, Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Comptroller General of the United States to--

(a) find if the work of the Department of "Peace" sector of the Department of Defense has been successful in preventing conflict in hot zones around the world;

(b) find if the efforts carried out have been targeting the correct regions and audiences and if those efforts are implemented in accordance to the guidelines;

(c) recommend any changes or modifications necessary to better the program which can include addressing (but not limited to) its funding, targeted regions, leadership, or peacemaking methods;

(d) assess any other matters that any reviewers deem important.