

Congresswoman Barbara Lee



United States Congress  
13<sup>th</sup> District, California



September 22, 2018

## Greetings from Congresswoman Lee

Dear Friends,

As a member of the United States Congress and a Congressional Representative to the United Nations, I have always worked for peace and justice. One of my longstanding efforts has been to create a cabinet-level Department of Peacebuilding dedicated to the study and advancement of peace. As such, I am the proud sponsor of H.R. 1111 – Department of Peacebuilding Act, which would target the root causes of domestic and international violence and promote policies to create a sustainable and peaceful world.

The culture of violence that we live in is unacceptable. On our streets and across the globe, the pervasive presence of violence has infected the lives of millions, and it is far past time we address it together. Each year, the U.S. government invests billions of dollars through the Pentagon, military academies, and our national defense universities all to develop war tactics and strategies. Instead, we must invest in peace – in our communities and abroad – with the same dedication, and work to dismantle the culture of violence endemic in our communities.

Peace can be and must be taught. We owe it to ourselves and our young people to create a society where war and violence are no longer the norm, where hate and inequity have no place, and where there is justice for all. A Department of Peacebuilding would help us accomplish our goals by facilitating peace summits between conflicting parties, advancing restorative justice practices in our institutions, and promoting peacebuilding in the realms of human and economic rights, disarmament, technology, and the media.

Now is the time to put an end to needless wars and violence, and to establish a Department of Peacebuilding in the United States and violence prevention infrastructures throughout the globe. Building peace together is the way forward and I hope the conference on “Designing a World Beyond War: Legalizing Peace” will provide you the tools to do just that.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Lee".

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

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