

1                                    *(Draft)* **Resolution on National Priorities**

2                                    *Developed by the SF Bay Area Campaign for New Priorities*

3                                    *As revised by Jackie Cabasso and Andy Lichterman, Western States Legal Foundation*

4    **Whereas:** the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are a consequence of a foreign policy which has  
5                    used force of arms as a substitute for diplomatic engagement, cost more than \$1  
6                    trillion of borrowed money, and resulted in the death or the devastating disability of  
7                    thousands of US military personnel and uncounted Iraqi and Afghani civilians,  
8                    severe destruction and environmental degradation to those countries, as well as  
9                    increased security threats to the United States; and

10 **Whereas:** military budget, now totaling more than \$700 billion per year (not including the  
11                    wars in Iraq and Afghanistan), is far in excess of that necessary to provide for the  
12                    legitimate defense needs of the people of the United States; and

13 **Whereas:** a significant portion of the excessive military budget is spent to maintain a vast  
14                    range of global commitments on all continents and oceans, including hundreds of  
15                    foreign U.S. military bases, a “nuclear umbrella” and hundreds of thousands of  
16                    troops deployed outside our borders, manifesting a foreign policy over-reliant on  
17                    military force;

18 **Whereas:** the share of these costs paid by the people of *\_\_(name of community)\_\_* is \$\_\_\_\_\_ billion  
19                    for the two wars and \$\_\_\_\_\_ of the rest of the overall military budget in *\_\_ (year)\_\_*  
20                    alone<sup>1</sup> – more than enough to wipe out state and local deficits, restore social  
21                    programs and public services, with money left over to meet other urgent needs;

22 **Whereas:** the severity of the ongoing economic crisis in our nation requires that the  
23                    government of the United States use its financial resources to rebuild our society:  
24                    aid state and local government to maintain and restore public services and social  
25                    programs – including education, health care, the social safety net and public safety –  
26                    care for veterans and their families, support environmental clean-up and alternative  
27                    energy programs, rebuild our physical infrastructure, and take urgent measures to  
28                    support job creation in both the private and public sectors; and therefore

29 **Be it Resolved:**

- 30                    1. That Congress should oppose further funding for U.S. military operations in Iraq and  
31                    Afghanistan, except to fund the rapid, safe and orderly withdrawal of US troops and  
32                    contractors and closing of all U.S. military bases there, emphasizing non-military

- 33 engagement, such as humanitarian aid, economic development and diplomacy, with  
34 efforts to rebuild those countries being channeled through established international  
35 organizations; and
- 36 2. That Congress should begin the significant systematic reduction in the military  
37 budget. Expert panels such as the Sustainable Defense Task Force have shown that  
38 the U.S. military budget could be cut by up to \$1 trillion over the next decade without  
39 significant changes to the mission or purposes of U.S. forces. Further savings and  
40 progress towards a safer world can be achieved by slashing a U.S. nuclear arsenal  
41 still designed for Cold War missions and cutting the programs designed to sustain it  
42 for decades to come, thus putting the world on a path towards the early elimination  
43 of these true weapons of mass destruction; by halting endless rounds of expensive  
44 new high-tech weapons that exceed the capability of all conceivable adversaries; and  
45 by closing foreign bases, ending aggressive military deployments, and returning  
46 home U.S. troops stationed abroad; and
- 47 3. That these recovered resources, together with new stimulus financing by the federal  
48 government be used to meet vital human needs, promote job creation, fund  
49 government services, rebuild our infrastructure, aid state and local governments,  
50 mortgage and housing relief and rehabilitation, care for our veterans and their  
51 families, and to develop a new economy based upon renewable energy to put our  
52 nation on an environmentally sustainable path in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; and
- 53 4. That the \_\_(name of body)\_\_ supports and will encourage public discussion and  
54 dialogue about the cost of the wars and military budget in our community, including  
55 convening a public hearing or other forum in which people affected by the current  
56 crisis can describe its impact on their jobs, families and communities; and
- 57 5. That a copy of this resolution be communicated to all members of the  
58 \_(state/region/city)\_ Congressional delegation, and the President and Secretary of  
59 State; and that it be provided to the media and otherwise made known to the people  
60 of \_\_(name of community)\_\_.

---

<sup>i</sup> Specific data for any state, city, county or congressional district can be obtained from the National Priorities Project ([www.nationalpriorities.org](http://www.nationalpriorities.org)), or contact the New Priorities Network for assistance at [newprioritiesnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:newprioritiesnetwork@gmail.com).