

Your name
Address
Phone/email
Email address

Dear Editor:

In response to your article on (insert local issue or supplemental/date), I want to point out that in the first four years of the Iraq war we have spent far more than most people realize — \$720 million dollars a day. \$720 million dollars could pay for 84 brand new elementary schools, but instead it is being spent continuing the occupation in Iraq resulting in Iraqi schools being destroyed and only 30% of Iraqi students continue to go to school. \$720 million dollars could be spent providing 423,529 children in the US with a year of healthcare, but instead over 655,000 Iraqis have been killed, many of them children.

It is shocking to realize that instead of building schools, homes and critical infrastructure in our own country, our government is spending over a trillion dollars to destroy those same things in Iraq through our continuing occupation. This is according to Nobel prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz and Harvard professor Linda Bilmes, who write that the first four years of the war have actually cost US taxpayers 2.4 times the \$410 billion in supplemental funding or \$1 trillion. That is because the supplemental funding approved by Congress doesn't figure in the cost of interest on the massive debt we have incurred because of the occupation or the cost of health care for our returning veterans, many of whom have unfortunately been horribly wounded. The Congressional Budget Office recently released a report with very similar numbers.

We need to tell Congress to stop funding this misguided war, to spend that money meeting human needs at home and to support reconciliation and reconstruction in Iraq to build peace instead of this destructive occupation.

Sincerely,
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