$1 TRILLION IN WAR SPENDING

What is the difference between a million, a billion and a trillion?

- A stack of hundred dollar bills that equals one MILLION dollars would be four inches high.
- A stack of hundred dollar bills that equals one BILLION dollars would be thirty feet taller than the Statue of Liberty.
- A stack of hundred dollar bills that equals one TRILLION dollars would be 63 miles high. In comparison, jet planes fly around 7 to 8 miles above the earth.

$1,000,000,000,000
Action Toolkit

The US will reach $1 Trillion in operational spending on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan on May 30, 2010. Here are some ways that you and your community can mark this milestone and help to spread the message that the economic and human cost of war are too high.

Make a Visual Display
If you have a group of 10-15 people, make a great visual that will attract passersby and the media. Purchase 14 pieces of poster board. On one piece draw a dollar sign. On another piece draw the number 1. On 12 pieces put a 9 on one side and a 0 on the other side. Have your group stand in a prominent location at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 30, 2010. Your line up should be poster boards with the symbols $999,999,999,999. At precisely 10:06 a.m., the 9 boards should flip over to reveal 0, and the 1 should join so that the symbols now read $1,000,000,000,000. You may want to use this visual as part of a press conference. Use our model press release as a template, available on the same page where you downloaded this action toolkit.

Embed the Counter
Our program partner The National Priorities Project has been keeping track of war spending for years through their Cost of War counter <http://costofwar.com/>. You can embed this counter on your web page, blog or facebook page and let your people know about $1 trillion in war spending.

Call Congress
As we approach $1 trillion in direct war spending Congress will be deciding whether to approve an additional $34 billion in emergency funding for the escalation of U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Please join nationwide efforts to tell Congress to stop funding war in Afghanistan and Iraq. Call the Congressional switchboard (202) 224-3121 and ask for your Representative by name. If you don’t know the name of your Representative you can search for it using your zip code here <http://www.house.gov/>. Make these points:

1) Stop funding war-fighting and escalation – Vote No on the supplemental
2) Support all Congressional efforts to require an Afghanistan exit strategy from the administration, including cosponsoring H.R. 5015 <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:HR05015:@@@P>, introduced by Representative McGovern.

Make a Video
The American Friends Service Committee and National Priorities Project are sponsoring a youth video contest to help young people enter the cost of war discussion. The If I Had a Trillion (IHTD) Youth Video Contest is open to youth and youth groups ages 13-23. Share your ideas about what you would do – for yourself, your family and your community – with $1 trillion by making a short (1-3 minute) video by November 30, 2010. You can find an overview, the rules, issues and video toolkits and a curriculum at this link http://afsc.org/action/if-i-had-trillion-dollars-youth-video-contest.