

**Petition to the elected officials of Massachusetts:**



**Whereas**

The people and communities of Massachusetts are still recovering from the economic crisis. Lots of people are out of work. Prices are up and wages down. Like all states, we face state budget cuts, which means the cities and towns are often left making up the difference. And lots of things just go unfunded.

**Whereas**

Massachusetts taxpayers will pay \$4.9 billion to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in FY2011. Another \$15.6 billion of MA tax money will go to fund the Department of Defense, which consumes almost 60% of all discretionary spending, leaving too little to fund education, AmeriCorp, transportation, college scholarships, new technologies to decrease our dependence on oil and more. It isn't that there isn't enough money. It is how it is spent.

**Now Therefore**

We call on Massachusetts elected officials to join us in calling on the President and Congress to support a 25% reduction in military spending and an end to the wars. This can be done without hurting troops on the front lines or endangering our country's security. It can be done by bringing all the troops home from Iraq and Afghanistan, eliminating wasteful weapons systems that the Pentagon has identified as unnecessary but which Congress keeps funding, closing half of the over 900 foreign military bases, not funding new nuclear weapons systems and eliminating waste in procurement and operations. By redirecting these savings we can reduce the deficit and have adequate funds to meet urgent community needs.

**It is time to change our national priorities.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/town \_\_\_\_\_

Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to receive updates on this campaign.

***"A nation that continues year after year to spend more on military defense than on programs for social uplift is approaching spiritual death." Martin Luther King Jr.***

**Return this petition to the AFSC-SENE office, PO Box 3692, South Attleboro, MA 02703**