

Petition to the elected officials of Rhode Island:

Whereas

The people and communities of Rhode Island have been hard hit by the economic crisis. Our state has the highest foreclosure rate and highest unemployment rate in New England. Social services to the most needy have been cut. Homeless shelters and food banks are struggling to meet people's needs. Cut backs in federal programs have a direct impact on our state budget and our town budgets.



Whereas

Rhode Island taxpayers will pay \$690.3 million to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in FY2011. Another \$2.2 billion of RI tax money will go to fund the Department of Defense, which consumes almost 60% of all discretionary spending. That leaves 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 Rhode Island elected officials to join us in calling on the President and Congress to support a 25% reduction in military spending. 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.

Please return signed copies of this petition to AFSC-SENE, PO Box 3692, South Attleboro MA 02703