

The History of Legislation to Create a Department of Peace

- 1792 Benjamin Banneker, noted African American scientist, surveyor, and editor and Benjamin Rush, doctor, educator and signer of the Declaration of Independence suggested the blue print for an Office of Peace.
- 1935, 1937, and 1939, Senator Matthew Neely of West Virginia introduced bills calling for a Department of Peace.
- 1943 Senator Alexander Wiley of Wisconsin spoke on the Senate floor calling for the United States of America to be the first government on the world to have a Secretary of Peace.
- 1945 Representative Louis Ludlow of Indiana introduced a bill that would establish a Department of Peace.
- 1947 Representative Everett Dirksen of Illinois introduced a bill for “A Peace Division in the State Department”.
- 1955-1968 Eighty-five bills calling for a Department of Peace were introduced in the House or the Senate.
- 1969 Senator Vance Hartke of Indiana and Representative Seymour Halpern of New York introduced legislation to create a Department of Peace in the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007 Representative Dennis Kucinich of Ohio introduced legislation to create a Department of Peace.
- September 2005 Senator Mark Dayton of Minnesota introduced legislation to create a Department of Peace and Nonviolence in the Senate.

The Peace Alliance Campaign and Organizational History

The Peace Alliance is a nonpartisan citizen action organization advocating for legislation that supports a culture of peace. We work to foster positive, proactive change toward the creation of a more nonviolent and peaceful world.

The Peace Alliance is spearheading the national campaign to establish a United States Department of Peace. We have citizen organizers active in all 50 states.

The Department of Peace effort was launched in April of 2003. We launched officially in Washington D.C. with our first Department of Peace Conference in conjunction with the second introduction of the bill into the 108th congress on April 8th, 2003.

The campaign was originally organized under the Global Renaissance Alliance (now called “Peace Partnership International”), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded by Marianne Williamson. The Peace Alliance, a 501(c)4 non-profit organization and sister to the Peace Partnership International, was founded in May of 2004 and further organized the U.S. Department of Peace Campaign.

It is with the help of thousands of citizen activists that we have taken this campaign from a beautiful idea into a political reality. Together we are building the foundation and infrastructure for a more peaceful nation and world.

**Additional information, news,
and support for a citizen lobbying
effort is at
www.thepeacealliance.org**