



To: The Honorable Senators of the Democratic Caucus  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Democratic Senators,

We, the undersigned, express our support for the Democratic National Committee (DNC) [DNC Afghanistan Withdrawal Resolution](#), introduced by Rep. Barbara Lee and passed on February 26, 2011.

We support the [American Health Security Act of 2011](#) (S.915) sponsored by Sen. Bernie Sanders, which will move us to a single-payer healthcare system.

The resolution and Sanders' S.915 express the intent of the Healthcare NOT Warfare campaign, which is to eliminate unnecessary military spending and redirect those funds to meet the very real need for comprehensive health coverage for all.

The vast majority of Americans are facing economic hardship brought on by policies that have favored the elite over working families. Foreclosures, high unemployment, bankruptcies, and loss of equity, savings, and pensions, accompanied by the rising cost of food, education, gasoline, and energy, have impacted the lives of most Americans.

While much of this problem was created on Wall Street and the failure of regulatory bodies to protect us, we recognize that the spiraling costs of healthcare and continuing to fight a war of choice in Afghanistan are responsible for a significant portion of the national debt and the hardships many Americans face.

With two major spending bills facing the Senate—the Defense Authorization Act and the 2012 budget—we encourage Senate Democrats to offer amendments that will cut unnecessary military spending and redirect those funds to providing healthcare for all and preserving and expanding Social Security and Medicare.

As peace and justice advocates, we expect our Democratic Senators will follow the lead of the Party that elected them and act in compliance with the will of the majority of U.S. citizens by taking necessary steps to begin a significant drawdown of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, beginning in July, as dictated in the DNC Resolution. In addition, we ask that Democratic Senators move to contain the spiraling costs of healthcare and address the 47 million Americans currently lacking access to healthcare by co-sponsoring the **American Health Security Act of 2011**.

In kind regards,

**Tim Carpenter**, national director,  
Progressive Democrats of America

**Norman Solomon**, co-chair,  
Healthcare NOT Warfare Campaign

**Congressman Raul Grijalva**,  
Representing Arizona's 7<sup>th</sup> district,  
Progressive Democrats of America  
Advisory Board member (PDA)

**Rep. Lynn Woolsey**,  
Representing California's 6th District,  
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**Reverend Jesse Jackson**,  
President and founder,  
Rainbow PUSH Coalition

**Jim Hightower**, columnist, radio  
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**Mimi Kennedy**, chair,  
Progressive Democrats of America  
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**Katie Robbins**, national organizer,  
Healthcare-NOW!

**Michael Lighty**, director of public  
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RootsAction.org

**Jodie Evans**, director, CODEPINK,  
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**Donna Smith**, co-chair,  
Healthcare NOT Warfare campaign

**Rep. John Conyers**,  
Representing Michigan's 14th district,  
Healthcare NOT Warfare co-chair,  
Progressive Democrats of America  
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**Rep. Barbara Lee**,  
Representing California's 9th District,  
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California Democratic Party

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National Priorities Project (NPP)

Ron Kovic, Vietnam veteran, author  
"Born on the Fourth of July"

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**Bob Fertik**, president  
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**Carolyn Rusti Eisenberg**, co-convener,  
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**Mark Dudzic**, national coordinator,  
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