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For immediate release:

San Diego-Based Citizen Group Offers Workshop In Support Of Congressional
Bill To Establish Cabinet-Level U.S. Department of Peace

(SAN DIEGO) * * * Americans for the Department of Peace (AFDOP), a San Diego-based citizens group organizing support of the bill now before Congress that would establish a cabinet-level Department of Peace (DOP), is offering a free workshop called “Citizen Advocacy for a U.S. Department of Peace.” The workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 12 at the Church of Today (8999 Activity Road; San Diego). The workshop will feature Lynn McMullen, national campaign coordinator for the Department of Peace bill.

Under this bill, the Department of Peace will be a cabinet level governmental department, in order to raise the overarching principle of “peace” to the same level of prominence as the Department of Defense – and to install peaceful conflict resolution as a fundamental principle of policy-making.

The February 12 workshop’s purpose is to teach attendees effective ways to enlist DOP support from congressional representatives; how to connect with other DOP supporters; and how to reach out to our communities to gain support. Participants will receive free Department of Peace bill “advocacy” materials and have the opportunity to be personally involved in facilitating passage of this revolutionary bill.

When the DOP bill is enacted, the Department of Peace would have jurisdiction internationally and domestically. The Department will focus on nonmilitary peaceful conflict resolution, the prevention of violence and the promotion of justice and democratic principles to expand human rights. Abroad, it would provide the president with a full array of options for non-violent resolution of conflict and highly sophisticated peacemaking strategies for post-war stabilization (such as are needed now in Iraq). Here in the United States, the DOP would have jurisdiction to address drug and gang violence, child abuse, prison reform and domestic abuse. Government agencies addressing these problems, currently scattered among various departments, would be coordinated under one umbrella to increase efficiency and effectiveness and save tax dollars. Additionally, the Department of Peace would establish a peace academy – patterned after the military academies – where students would learn peaceful conflict resolution skills and, after graduation, would serve in peace-related postings at home or abroad.

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