

**SAMPLE RESOLUTION for ADOPTION by LOCAL and STATE GOVERNMENTS and Civil Society Organizations:**

**REAL NATIONAL SECURITY REQUIRES A CHANGE IN NATIONAL PRIORITIES**

Whereas, our nation, state and community face the most severe economic crisis since the Great Depression; and

Whereas, 58 cents of every tax dollar spent by the Federal Government on discretionary appropriations pays for past, present and future wars and military operations;

Whereas, stationing more than 350,000 troops in 146 countries and maintaining more than 800 bases in 63 foreign countries, costing more than \$372 billion annually is a Cold War relic that makes us no safer and drains resources from meeting our real needs; and

Whereas, interest payments on the military portion of the national debt alone consumed \$30.25 billion in 2009; and

Whereas, between FY 2001 and FY 2008, federal federal funding of the military increased at a rate two and one-half times the rate of increase in grants to state and local governments; and

Whereas, for every \$1 billion spent on the military 11,600 jobs are created, while for the same billion dollars in consumption derived from tax cuts creates 14,800 job; investments in clean energy create 17,100 jobs; funding health care creates 19,600 jobs; and spending on education creates 29,100 jobs; and

Whereas, the Pentagon budget was \$297 billion when President Clinton left office, and the proposed 2011 fiscal year Pentagon budget is \$708 billion – more than double – and military spending by other agencies raises that total to more than \$1 trillion; and

Whereas, instead of making us safer, this massive misallocation of resources and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have created more enemies and actually increased the risk of terrorism, and have already cost the lives of nearly 5500 U.S. troops, wounding more than 100,000 others, and when future medical treatment for injured veterans, replacement of equipment and armament, interest payments on the military portion of the debt, and other residual costs are factored in, by 2017 total expenditures are projected to run between \$3 and \$5 trillion; and

Whereas, this drain on the public treasury is bleeding our nation and forcing a choice between ever greater debt that will be borne by future generations or severe cuts in vital social programs and public services, resulting in government's inability to meet the most basic needs of our people; and

Whereas, there is no military solution to the problem of terrorism, but terrorists have been effectively dealt by the criminal justice system using police and intelligence methods, choking off finances, and through development assistance, education and other means that address the underlying grievances that are a seedbed for terrorism;

Whereas, our nation can never enjoy true security so long as millions are without jobs or are underemployed, lack healthcare, are unable to afford higher education or must take on a lifetime of crushing debt to do so, and hundreds of thousands have lost their homes or are at risk of doing so, our nation's infrastructure is crumbling and our failure to develop sustainable alternatives to carbon fuels is putting our global environment at risk; therefore,

Be it resolved, that this \_\_\_\_\_ (city council, board of supervisors, state legislature, board of education, etc.) calls upon the Congress and the President to change course by ending the wasteful, unsustainable and unwinnable wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, bringing all our troops and tax dollars home, dismantling the global network of U.S. military bases, and dramatically shifting our national priorities to meet human needs, restore vital social programs and public services, rebuild our nation's deteriorating infrastructure, decaying inner cities and the still devastated Gulf Coast, developing 21<sup>st</sup> Century sustainable alternatives to carbon fuel-dependent technologies, thereby creating stable jobs at living wages for all who seek employment, and by putting our nation on an environmentally sustainable, ecologically responsible path that addresses the challenge of global warming and environmental degradation while reinvigorating our economy; and

Be it finally resolved, that our nation's security can be more effectively enhanced by using our resources to address the causes of global poverty, hunger, disease, and under-development that are the seedbed for conflict, and by relying on diplomacy, development aid, and international cooperation rather than force of arms, war and military occupation to protect our national security and promote peaceful relations with other countries and peoples.