



Speaking Peace to Power

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Cost of War Act

Congresswoman Nikema Williams (GA-05), Congressman Peter Meijer (MI-03), and Congresswoman Sara Jacobs (CA-53) introduced the *Cost of War Act*, bipartisan legislation that would require the Department of Defense to publicly share the cost per American taxpayer of each military operation conducted by the United States Armed Forces since 9/11 and into the future. *The Cost of War Act* modernizes legislation originally passed by Congressman John Lewis, which required this same cost disclosure for the Wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria.

Erik Sperling, Executive Director of Just Foreign Policy said:

“Congresswoman Williams is standing on the shoulders of giants with this visionary legislation that brings together the civil rights movement, combat veterans, working families, and the pro-diplomacy community around the critical question of how our country should spend taxpayers' funds. Legendary leaders such as John Lewis, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and even former President Dwight Eisenhower were clear that an expansive global military presence necessitates tradeoffs that can cause underinvestment in hard-hit communities in Atlanta and across the country. This legislation will give American people long-overdue transparency about our military spending abroad and help voters ensure that their government strikes the right balance between militarism abroad and addressing urgent human needs right here at home.”

Richard Rose, President of the Atlanta NAACP said:

“We support Congresswoman Nikema Williams and the Cost of War Act that I believe will open the eyes of America as to the true cost of war. We know the economic pain but a serious quantification of that pain should be publicly available. Knowledge is power and by extending this reporting to all military actions, American citizens will gain power.”

Congressman Meijer said:

“Since 9/11, wars around the globe have had both a devastating human cost and a massive taxpayer cost estimated to be in the trillions. The Cost of War Act of 2022 enhances government transparency and accountability by requiring the Pentagon to post publicly and clearly on its website how much each of these wars costs the individual American taxpayer. This is a critical step forward in our bipartisan effort to restore congressional authority and oversight on matters of national security.”

We ask that you co-sponsor and support H.R. 7147.