

# WITNESS AGAINST WAR

## THE COST OF THE IRAQ WAR IN 2008

\$152 Billion Dollars approved by Congress for 2008.

\$2.2 billion spent by the taxpayers of Wisconsin.

## WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

The \$2.2 billion paid by Wisconsin taxpayers in 2008 for the Iraq war could have funded:

- The full cost of tuition for 338,000 students at any public university, community college or technical college in Wisconsin.
- 49,000 new elementary and secondary school teachers.
- Health insurance for 129,000 families.
- New affordable housing units for 20,000 families.

VOICES FOR CREATIVE NONVIOLENCE

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## THE FUTURE COST OF THE IRAQ WAR

In January 2008, the Congressional Budget Office estimated future costs of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. It did not provide separate breakouts for each war.

The CBO provided the following two estimates.

Reduction of U.S. troop levels in Iraq and Afghanistan to 30,000 by October 1, 2009 (something no national political leader is discussing):

- \$118 billion in 2009
- \$50 billion in 2010
- \$34 billion in 2011
- \$34 billion a year through 2018

Reduction of U.S. troops levels in Iraq and Afghanistan to 75,000 by October 1, 2012:

- \$161 billion in 2009
- \$147 billion in 2010
- \$128 billion in 2011
- \$101 billion in 2012
- \$79 billion in 2013
- \$77 billion each year from 2014 to 2018

Notes:

- 1) Tuition cost based upon tuition at UW – Madison of \$7,188 per year.
- 2) Elementary & school teacher based upon average salary and fringe benefits statewide in 2007 from school district survey compiled by Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.
- 3) Health insurance based upon family insurance premium of \$18,780 per year as noted in Robert Kraig, “Wisconsin Health Insurance Cost Rankings 2008,” Citizen Action of Wisconsin, December 4, 2007

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