

# Human needs or war?

Did you know that the war in Iraq costs U.S. taxpayers \$500,000 per minute or \$720 million a day?

## One day of the Iraq war equals<sup>1</sup>:

- 423,529 children with healthcare, or
- 6,482 families with homes, or
- 34,904 four-year college scholarships, or
- 95,364 Head Start places for children<sup>2</sup>

## It's a question of priorities. What are yours?

In recent years, our nation has slashed federal funding for health, education and other vital social services, while spending more than \$1 trillion for the Iraq war.

Between 2002 and 2006<sup>3</sup>, for instance, youth training programs were cut 25%, child welfare services 13%, and nutrition programs for elders, 10%. Now, President Bush wants to cut \$23 billion more from programs that already have been cut to the bone.

**Action alert:** Join AFSC and other groups in National Call-In Days now. Call your two senators and your House member using AFSC's toll-free number, **1-800-965-4701**.

**Sample message:** "My priorities are human needs, not war. Please vote to override any vetoes by President Bush of the children's health insurance program and appropriations bills that fund human needs. We can afford those priorities by adopting fair tax policies and finding a diplomatic solution to the Iraq war."

To find your senators' or House member's names, go to: <http://www.senate.gov> or <http://www.house.gov>.

**Join AFSC in calling for new priorities!** Sign AFSC's defund/refund petition at [www.afsc.org/economic-justice](http://www.afsc.org/economic-justice) and learn what else you can do.

Sources: <sup>1</sup> Nobel-Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz and Harvard professor Linda Bilmes, at [www.afsc.org/cost](http://www.afsc.org/cost); <sup>2</sup> National Priorities Project, [http://www.nationalpriorities.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=339&Itemid=107](http://www.nationalpriorities.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=339&Itemid=107); <sup>3</sup> Coalition on Human Needs, <http://www.chn.org/pdf/HumanNeedsCutsSummary.PDF>



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