

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR
August 15, 2007

Contact: Gary Zuckett, WV Citizen Action
304-346-5891; cell 437-3701
garyz@wvcag.org

Iraq War's Cost to West Virginians Revealed in New Report, Civic & Faith Groups Call for End to Upside-down Priorities Shortchanging WV Communities

Report to be released Wednesday shows proposed new investments in West Virginia's health care, education, job training, etc. are a tiny fraction of Iraq War spending

WV Citizen Action Group will join with several other civic and faith groups on Wednesday to release new data revealing the cost of the Iraq War to West Virginia taxpayers. **The report, titled "Getting U.S. Back on Track"** and authored by USAction Education Fund, also **illustrates how modest new investments in neglected priorities such as health care and education in West Virginia would amount to a fraction of what is spent every month on the war.**

At the event speakers will urge West Virginia's Congressional delegation to support modest funding increases proposed by the new Congress as a down-payment toward fully funding children's health care, job training, education and other priorities. They will ask West Virginia's members of Congress to override President Bush's threatened veto, which could needlessly shut down the government and further hurt West Virginia's families and communities.

LARGE VISUALS: The AFSC "Cost of War" Display consists of five 7 foot tall banners with pictures and messages on both sides that reveal the cost of the Iraq war in terms of schools, housing, food programs, infrastructure and more that the Billions spent on the war could be funding.

A date certain for U.S. redeployment would save lives and make valuable public resources available for renewed investment in health care, education and other West Virginia priorities.

WHAT: Release of Report Detailing Cost of Iraq War to West Virginia
WHO: Rev Jim Lewis – WV Patriots for Peace; **Rose Edington** – Minister, UU Congregation; **Rick Wilson** – American Friends Service Committee; **Sam Hickman** – National Association of Social Workers– WV Chapter; **Gary Zuckett**-WV Citizen Action
WHEN: Wednesday, August 15th at 10 AM
WHERE: Unitarian Universalist Congregation 520 Kanawha Blvd. W, Charleston, WV 25302

###

WV Citizen Action is a member of both the Emergency Campaign for America's Priorities and Americans Against Escalation in Iraq and a leading voice calling for a concrete timetable for an end to the war in Iraq.