

For **ONE WEEK – Sept 14-21, 2007** – CALL your Members of Congress EVERY DAY to demand that we stop funding the war in Iraq ([click here for your Member's contact info](#)), and start spending our vital resources on protecting the world's children. **SCHEDULE 10 minutes RIGHT NOW in your calendar, every day for one week, to call both your Senators and your Representative.**

Your messages could sound like this: "My name is _____, I am a Mother Acting Up and I passionately urge the Senator/Representative to vote NO on the Iraq War supplemental spending bill. One of many reasons to Vote NO is: _____ . This war is not making our children safer; vote NO on more war funding. Thank you." (If you want to add a Mama Grizzly Bear growl to further get your point across, go for it.)

Top 10 reasons the world's children cannot afford this war:

1. **Since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003, life for Iraqis has gotten worse;** 4 million Iraqis have fled their homes, half of them children. The number of internally displaced persons has doubled to 1.1 million since the American troop buildup began in February.¹ **This war is not making our children safer; vote NO on more war funding.**
2. **A generation of Iraqis has been robbed of its childhood, raised in fear and violence.** It is estimated that 1 million Iraqi children have been damaged by this war — losing their parents, homes and communities.² **This war is not making our children safer; vote NO on more war funding.**
3. **Due to severe lack of family resources, children are working for the insurgents to plant roadside bombs.** Insurgents typically pay children \$200 to \$300 to plant a bomb, enough to support a family for two or three months. Boys, some as young as 11, now outnumber foreign fighters at U.S. detention camps in Iraq.³ **This war is not making our children safer; vote NO on more war funding.**
4. **Conditions for children have deteriorated to what UNICEF considers to be a critical point with severe lack of nutrition, clean water, sanitation, access to medical help and electricity. Little if any of the \$145 billion will be direct aid for Iraqi children and their families.** UNICEF asked for \$42 million dollars to provide critical relief for 1.6 million children who have been displaced and the US responded with ONLY a \$30 million grant for education. (0.02% of the supplemental spending bill being discussed this month).¹ **This war is not making our children safer, vote no on more war funding.**
5. **92 percent of Iraqi children show signs of learning impediments.** Haider Abdul Muhsin, one of the country's few child psychiatrists said, "*With our limited resources, the societal impact is going to be very bad. This generation will become a very violent generation, much worse than during Saddam Hussein's regime.*"⁴ **This war is not making our children safer; vote NO on more war funding.**
6. **The Ministry of Education estimates that only 30 percent of the 3.5 million Iraqi elementary-age kids are attending school now, down from 75% last year.**² **This war is not making our children safer; vote NO on more war funding.**
7. **Millions of children don't go to school because getting to school has become an unacceptable risk.** Every morning, school children in Baghdad can run into a half-dozen or more of the estimated 1,000 checkpoints in the city.² **This war is not making our children safer; vote NO on more war funding.**
8. **This war is exacting an immense psychological impact on Iraqi children.** At Sadr General Hospital in Sadr City, as many as 250 children arrive for treatment every day, nearly double from last year, while doctors only treat the first 20 children because they run out of medication.³ **This war is not making our children safer; vote NO on more war funding.**
9. **We are spending our children's future on this war with a reckless regard for accountability.** Investigators have discovered enormous fraud involving American contracts valued at more than \$5 billion dollars⁵; enough money to provide health coverage for 3.5 million American children.⁶ **This war is not making our children safer; vote NO on more war funding.**
10. **If we CHOOSE NOT to spend another \$145 billion on this failed war, we could provide primary education for every child on earth (\$30 billion), universal access to water and sanitation for everyone on earth (\$21 billion), end hunger in the U.S. (\$7 billion), and give a free laptop to every U.S. student from kindergarten to graduate school (\$86 billion). Total \$144 billion.**⁷ **This war is not making our children safer; vote NO on more war funding.**

Sources: 1) United Nations for Children, UNICEF; 2) Newsweek 01/02/07, *The Next Jihadists: Iraq's Lost Children*; 3) Washington Post 06/26/07, *Iraqi Youth Face Lasting Scars of War*; 4) February 2006 study published by the Assoc. of Psychologists of Iraq; 5) International Herald Tribune 08/28/07, *U.S. broadens fraud investigations in Iraq*; 6) Children's Defense Fund; 7) The Budget Graph 2008: A Visual Guide to Your Federal Taxes.