

## U.S. Withdrawal from Afghanistan

WHEREAS, NYSUT at its 2010 RA and the AFT at its 2010 convention, passed resolutions calling for “an end to our current open-ended military involvement in Afghanistan with a specific timetable for the rapid, orderly withdrawal of all armed forces and military contractors from Afghanistan, to begin immediately;” and

WHEREAS, the U.S. war in Afghanistan is now in its tenth year, and is the longest war in U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, rather than announcing a timetable for the rapid, orderly withdrawal of U.S. forces, the U.S. government has increased the number of U.S. troops to over 100,000 and promised a significant U.S. military presence in Afghanistan until 2014 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the price paid by U.S. soldiers continues to rise (more than 1,400 dead, over 9,400 wounded, rising levels of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), while tens of thousands of Afghan civilians have perished or been crippled in the fighting; and

WHEREAS, according to U.S. intelligence reports, Al-Qaeda no longer has a significant presence in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, the continued occupation of Afghanistan has increased recruits to the Taliban, has contributed to destabilizing Pakistan, and has not succeeded in eliminating acts of terrorism by Al-Qaeda and allied groups; and

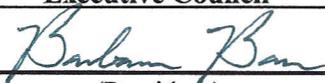
WHEREAS, the war in Afghanistan has already cost taxpayers more than \$370 billion since 2001, and the annual cost is now in excess of \$100 billion, while a study by Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes estimates that the total cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will reach between \$4 trillion and \$6 trillion; and

WHEREAS, these trillions in federal dollars would be better spent on improving our security at home: improving education and healthcare—including for the thousands of young people who enlist in the military primarily to gain access to healthcare and a college education—creating more jobs, shoring up our infrastructure, and funding other vital domestic programs; and

WHEREAS, after a decade of war in Central Asia, it is clear that a major impetus of U.S. policy in Afghanistan is to gain control of access to Central Asian energy resources and Afghan mineral wealth and to gain the ability to establish permanent military bases in the region—despite the claims that it is a war for democracy and the prevention of terrorism; therefore be it:

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I hereby certify that the above resolution was approved for submission to the 2008 NYSUT Representative Assembly by the:

Executive Council at a meeting held on January 13, 2011  
Signed:  Local 2334  
(President) NYSUT Local or Retiree Council #

Local or Retiree Council Name: Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

Local or Retiree Council President's E-mail address: bbowen@pscmail.org

RESOLVED, that NYSUT advocate within its international, AFT, on the basis of this resolution and the resolution passed at the 2010 NYSUT RA, to call on the U.S. government immediately to begin the withdrawal of all armed forces and military contractors from Afghanistan, a withdrawal to be completed by January 1, 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT report to members on the steps it has taken to advocate for this position, and that NYSUT publish educational materials for its own membership on the importance of ending the war and the relation between the cost of the war and the deficits in state budgets; and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT call for the reallocation of funds that would otherwise be spent on the war in Afghanistan to urgently needed social programs and job creation for working people in this country, and to expenditures for infrastructure and social programs to improve the lives of the people of Afghanistan.

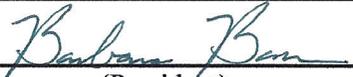
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