

# 2014 Massachusetts Peace Action Legislative Agenda: Federal Bills Detail Sheet

## Budget

### Progressive 'Better-Off Budget'

**MAPA position:** Yes

**Summary:** Reverses tax cuts that have hit working families the hardest—starting with repealing across-the-board budget cuts known as the “sequester.” It creates a fairer tax code for low and middle-income. Reverses harmful pay freezes, expands benefits for federal retirees and strengthens federal health care and retirement programs Americans rely on.

**Activity:** Pending

## Out of Afghanistan

### H.R. 200: Responsible End to the War in Afghanistan Act

**MAPA Position:** Yes

**Sponsor:** Barbara Lee (D-CA)

**Summary:** To provide that funds for operations of the Armed Forces in Afghanistan shall be obligated and expended only for purposes of providing for the safe and orderly withdrawal from Afghanistan of all members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense contractor personnel who are in Afghanistan.

**Activity:** 01/04/2013 Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

• [Read H.R. 200 \(42 Co-Sponsors\)](#)

### S.Res. 347: A Resolution Providing for Completion of the Accelerated Transition of United States Combat and Military and Security Operations to the Government of Afghanistan

**MAPA Position:** Yes

**Sponsor:** Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)

**Summary:** To work with government of Afghanistan, allies and NATO to complete the accelerated transition of US combat and military and security operations to the government of Afghanistan.

**Activity:** Referred to committee on foreign relations on, February 6, 2014.

**MAPA Action:** Work on drafting a letter to urge our senators to sign.

• [Read S.Res. 347 \(8 Co-Sponsors\)](#)

## Authorization of Military Force

### H.R. 2324: Sunset to the Authorization of use of Military Force Act

**MAPA Position:** Yes

**Sponsor:** Adam Schiff (D-CA)

**Summary:** Repeals, effective December 31, 2014, the Authorization for Use of Military Force (authorized the President to use force against those nations, organizations, or persons that committed or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001)

**Activity:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on April 11, 2013

• [Read H.R. 2324 \(9 Co-Sponsors\)](#)

### H.R. 3852: To Appeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002

**MAPA Position:** Yes

**Sponsor:** Barbara Lee (D-CA)

**Summary:** Repeals the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002

**Activity:** Referred to Committee on Foreign Affairs (1/10/2014)

• [Read H.R. 3852 \(10 co-sponsors\)](#)

## Military Budget

### H.R. 559: Audit the Pentagon Act of 2013

**MAPA Position:** Yes

**Sponsor:** Barbara Lee (D-CA)

**Summary:** To audit the Pentagon. The Pentagon has never passed an audit in its existence. To cut military spending and ensure that defense dollars are spent efficiently.

**Activity:** Referred to the on Oversight and Government Reform on February 6, 2013

- [Read H.R. 559 \(16 Co-Sponsors\)](#)

## Nuclear Expenditures

### H.R. 4107: REIN-IN Act of 2014

**MAPA Position:** Yes

**Sponsor:** Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)

**Summary:** Prohibits using funds appropriated to the Department of Defense (DOD) for FY2014 or thereafter: (1) to arm a B-2 or B-52 aircraft with a nuclear weapon; (2) for the research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) or procurement of a long-range penetrating bomber aircraft; (3) to make the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons; or (4) for the B61 or W78 life extension program.

**Activity:** Referred to Subcommittee on Strategic Forces (No vote)

**MAPA Action:** Urge all 9 Massachusetts delegates to sign when SANE Act comes up during amendments process.

- [Read H.R. 4107 \(10 Co-Sponsors\)](#)

### S. 2070: Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures (SANE) Act

**MAPA Position:** Yes

**Sponsor:** Ed Markey (D-MA)

**Summary:** Prohibits using funds appropriated to the Department of Defense (DOD) for: (1) to arm a B-2 or B-52 aircraft with a nuclear weapon; (2) for the research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) or procurement of a long-range penetrating bomber aircraft; (3) to make the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons; or (4) for the B61 or W78 life extension program.

**Activity:** 02/27/2014 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

**MAPA Action:** Urge all 9 Massachusetts delegates to sign when SANE Act comes up during amendments process.

- [Read H.R. 2070 \(1 Sponsor\)](#)

## Trade Priorities

### H.R. 3830: Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014 (Transpacific Partnership “Fast Track”)

**MAPA Position:** No

**Sponsor:** Dave Camp (R-MI)

**Summary:** Approves Fast Track, which gives President authority to send bill back to congress – congress then has 90 days to complete a simply up/down vote. No amendments can be introduced.

**Activity:** Referred to Committee on Ways and Means (No vote)

- [Embraced by White House Press Secretary](#)
- [Read H.R. 3830 \(2 Co-Sponsors\)](#)

### S. 1900: Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014

**MAPA Position:** No

**Sponsor:** Max Baucus (D-MT)

**Summary:** Fast Track gives President authority to send bill back to congress – congress then has 90 days to complete a simply up/down vote. No amendments can be introduced.

**Activity:** Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

- [Read S. 1900 \(1 Sponsor\)](#)

## Israel Partnership

### S. 462: United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2013

**MAPA Position:** No

**Sponsor:** Barbara Boxer (D-CA)

**Summary:** Declares that Israel is a Major Strategic Partner of the United States.

**Activity:** 03/05/2013 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

**MAPA Action:** Pressure Sen. Ed Markey to rescind his signature. Implore Sen. Elizabeth Warren not to add hers.

- [Read S. 462 \(55 Co-Sponsors\)](#)

### **H.R. 938: United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2013**

**MAPA Position:** No

**Sponsor:** Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)

**Summary:** Declares Israel as a major strategic partner of the United States

- Extends authority to: (1) make additions to foreign-based defense stockpiles, and (2) transfer certain obsolete or surplus Department of Defense items to Israel.
- Authorizes the President to carry out U.S.-Israel cooperative activities and to provide assistance for cooperation in the fields of energy, water, homeland security, agriculture, and alternative fuel technologies.
- Urges the President to provide assistance for enhancement of the David's Sling Weapon System, the joint United States-Israel Arrow Weapon System, and the Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system.

**Activity:** Passed 410-1 (19 No Vote) now in senate.

- [Read H.R.938 \(410 aye votes\)](#)

## **Iran**

### **S.1881: Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act**

**MAPA position:** No

**Sponsor:** Robert Menendez (D-NJ)

**Summary:** To expand sanctions imposed with respect to Iran and to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

**Activity:** 12/20/2013 Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar No. 228

- [Read S.1881 \(58 Co-Sponsors\)](#)

### **"Give Peace a Chance" Congressional Letter (Doggett-Price Letter):**

**MAPA Position:** Yes

**Authors:** Rep. David Price (D-NC) and Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)

**Summary:** "[To] take advantage of the opportunity before us to pursue a peaceful, diplomatic resolution to Iran's nuclear program, and that we must resist calls by some in Congress to prematurely enact a bill or resolution that risks inadvertently derailing or impeding our ongoing negotiations." –Rep. David Price

**Activity:** Sent to President Obama on February 12, 2014 with 104 bi-partisan signatures.

- [Read "Give Peace a Chance" Letter \(104 signatures\)](#)

## **Peace-building**

### **H.R. 808: Department of Peacebuilding Act of 2013**

**MAPA Position:** Yes

**Sponsor:** Barbara Lee (D-CA)

**Summary:** Establishes a Department of Peacebuilding, which shall be headed by a Secretary of Peacebuilding. Sets forth the mission of the Department, including: (1) cultivation of peace as a national policy objective; and (2) development of policies that promote national and international conflict prevention, nonviolent intervention, mediation, peaceful conflict resolution, and structured conflict mediation.

**Activity:** 02/25/2013 Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

- [Read H.R. 808 \(23 Co-sponsors\)](#)

*(No Senate Version)*