

Stop the Arms Race Political Action Committee

A Call to Action

STAR♦PAC, the political voice and resource for many of the Iowa peace community, calls to action everyone who longs for peace to work actively in Congressional election campaigns opposing candidates who enable a belligerent President and administration. Our partner non-profit organizations, unable to advocate directly for candidates, can nonetheless actively raise issues pertaining to the eroding of international relations, exorbitant increases in military spending, and inhumane immigration policies.

We are deeply concerned about:

- the unilateral and apparently unproductive back and forth with North Korea, jeopardizing people throughout the peninsula and region, while neglecting humanitarian aid;
- the unilateral cancelling of the Iran nuclear deal, alienating both our allies and forces for constructive engagement within Iran;
- the lack of balance in fostering a peaceful outcome between opposing Israeli and Palestinian forces, a conflict which enflames an already dangerous Middle East region, and which aligns the United States with actions that have tragic implications for the people of Gaza and the West Bank;
- the politically motivated increases in our wasteful and dangerous military spending, which already surpasses that of the next seven nations combined, both friend and foe;
- the administration's immigration policies that appear deliberately hostile to peoples of color who seek refuge from violence in their own native lands, thereby increasing international tensions.

STAR♦PAC is non-partisan in selecting candidates to support; we search for the best candidates to "wage peace." We have endorsed both Democrats and Republicans. Indeed, the issues that concern us have not been addressed by either party to our satisfaction. Thus, **one important form of action is to "bird dog" candidates of both parties in raising the issues. Attend individual candidate events and multi-candidate forums, and raise pointed questions. Write letters to the editor, and call in to radio talk shows sharing your views and concerns. TALK to friends and neighbors.**

Despite being non-partisan, we agree with some prominent Republicans of good will that their party has become a tool of some utterly negative forces. The Trump Administration exhibits extreme hostility to improving international relations, to reducing conflicts, and to spending wisely our resources to meet human needs. Congressional leaders and members have been unwilling to provide checks and balances to the administration. We therefore oppose the election of Iowa's four Republican Congressional candidates. We need accountability in government, and to send a message to the Republican Party that its current state is unsustainable.

As individuals, we must not be passive. **Direct citizen action in this time is to engage with campaigns that are identifying voters who will vote against Iowa's four Republican candidates, helping to persuade those not previously engaged, and turning out their votes. Independently, we must speak to our friends and acquaintances who will be influenced by our support of opposing candidates.**

This is a critical time, from which we have a great opportunity. Let's make this happen.