

Chelsea Stands Up Against the War!

5/12/09

(Standup Week 209)

Tuesday, 6pm–7pm

Why are we in Iraq?

Not because of weapons of mass destruction.

Not because Iraq was involved in 9/11.

Not because Iraq was a threat to our national security.

What have we gotten?

US military dead: 4,287 US military wounded: 31,230

Iraqi civilians killed: 100,339* Money spent on war: \$622 billion

Who are we?

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War has pledged to “Stand Up” until the war ends and the troops come home safely.

Every Tuesday evening at 6 pm (rain or shine), **Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War** assembles on the northwest corner of 8th Avenue and 24th Street to facilitate “**Chelsea Stands Up Against the War,**” a community protest against the war in Iraq.

We carry banners, signs, and candles as we gather for one hour each week to protest the war in Iraq. We distribute this newsletter, peace buttons, collect signatures on petitions and speak with our neighbors about the need to end war in Iraq. The **Stand Up** make a dramatic statement to passing vehicular traffic on 8th avenue.

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War is an all-volunteer organization that wants to build the broadest possible neighborhood consensus. With that goal in mind, the organization is open to all and functions by consensus.

Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War is not formally affiliated with any other organization but is willing to work with all groups and individuals who are committed to ending this illegal and immoral war fought by our fellow citizens, paid for with our tax dollars, and prosecuted in our name.

*The recent Johns Hopkins/Lancet report places the figure at 655,000+



Chelsea Neighbors United to End the War

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Fund Universal Health Care NOT War

By Jacqueline Schoenhaus-Barnett and Gary A. Barnett

America is ranked last among developed nations for health care delivery according to the World Health Organization. We have to ask ourselves why we have fallen so far behind other industrialized nations. Maybe it's because the American government has been too busy funneling tax payers' dollars, \$620 billion since the Iraq war began, into perpetuating a no-win war against “terrorism” rather than taking care of its citizens at home.

On May 5, 2009 the Senate Finance Committee, chaired by Senator Max Baucus, convened a purported panel of 15 expert witnesses (not one of whom advocated a single-payer system) to sort out what sort of coverage Americans might expect in the Senate health care reform bill.

Eight protesters, members of various medical and grass-roots organizations such as Healthcare Now, Physicians for a National Health Program, and Single Payer Action, conducted themselves in a respectful manner as, one by one, they stood up and asked why single payer reform was not “at the table”. The result was their being arrested and taken out in handcuffs.

The C-Span cameras could have shown all of this live, but instead chose to focus only on Chairman Baucus, though the protesters' words could be heard in the audience. The activists were dressed in black in memory of the 22,000 people who die every year due to lack of health insurance. They are advocating for H.R. 676, the House bill for single payer health care that would enroll all Americans into an expanded Medicare (administrative costs 2 percent) instead of the present for profit health insurance companies and HMO's (administrative costs 25-30 percent).



Photo by Gary Schorichet