

**Statement to the Press, prior to hearing on Resolution 367 in the New York City Council
Committee on State and Federal Legislation
June 9th, 2005
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United for Peace and Justice**

United for Peace and Justice, the nation's largest antiwar coalition, applauds the efforts to offer a legal mechanism for those who want to make sure their hard-earned tax dollars are never spent on war. This nation is presently engaged in a war that was based on lies and manipulation. The war in Iraq never should have happened, and it certainly never should have been allowed to eat up billions of dollars.

With more than 1,600 U.S. service people dead and thousands more wounded, with tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians killed and maimed and their nation in ruins, this war has already cost much too much. On top of that, hundreds of billions of our dollars have been spent, dollars that are desperately needed in our schools and health care system and public transportation and so much more. It is time to end the war in Iraq, and it is time to establish new priorities for our budgets. It is time to make legal accommodation for the conscience of the nation.