

Congressional Briefing with Senator Jack Reed: The \$5.6 Trillion Price Tag of the Post-9/11 Wars and How We Are Paying for It

This November and December, members of Congress will make some of the most important decisions of the decade about budget priorities and trade-offs. In making these decisions, it is important that members be aware of the full scope and longer term impact of Pentagon spending decisions.

Senator Jack Reed will host a panel of speakers from the Costs of War Project at Brown University's Watson Institute for International & Public Affairs. The event will officially release a new report by Boston University political scientist Neta Crawford on the total budgetary costs of the post-9/11 wars: \$5.6 trillion since 2001. Harvard public finance expert Linda Bilmes will also talk about how the US is paying for post 9/11 war expenditures, in comparison to previous wars such as Korea and Vietnam. Speakers will present their findings, put these into current political context, and suggest some avenues for legislative action.

When: Wednesday, November 8, 10-11am

Where: Senate Armed Services Committee Room, Russell Senate Office Building, Room 236

Program:

10am Senator Reed, Opening Remarks.

10:10 Catherine Lutz, Co-Director of the Costs of War Project and Thomas J. Watson, Jr. Family Professor of Anthropology and International Studies at Brown University, Introductions.

10:15 Neta Crawford, Co-Director of the Costs of War Project and Professor at Boston University. "United States Budgetary Costs of Post-9/11 Wars Through FY2018: A Summary of the \$5.6 Trillion in Costs for the US Wars in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Post-9/11 Veterans Care and Homeland Security."

10:25 Linda Bilmes, Daniel Patrick Moynihan Senior Lecturer in Public Policy at Harvard University, and co-author (with Joseph Stiglitz) of *The Three Trillion Dollar War: The True Cost of the Iraq Conflict*. "The Credit Card Wars: Post-9/11 War Funding Policy in Historical Perspective."

10:35 Audience Q+A

The Costs of War Project, housed at Brown University, was launched by a group of scholars from around the US to document the hidden or unacknowledged costs of the post-9/11 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and related violence elsewhere in the "war on terror."

www.costsofwar.org