



Senate Select Committee on Ethics
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Dear members and staff of the Senate Ethics Committee

CODEPINK: Women for Peace would like to file an ethics complaint to the Senate Ethics Committee regarding the unethical, libelous, and McCarthy-like claims by Senator Jim Banks (IN) against CODEPINK. Sen. Banks has gone on national television, posted on his social media accounts, and even filed a frivolous request with the Justice Department to investigate us based on false allegations.

Sen. Banks has said that we are “engaging in propaganda efforts to support the Chinese Communist Party’s foreign policy aims,” as well as many other assertions stating that CODEPINK is paid off by and represents a foreign government. All of this is entirely untrue.

As we have officially stated multiple times, CODEPINK receives no money from any foreign government and is funded by individuals and foundations based in the US. CODEPINK has no contact with the Chinese Communist Party.

Furthermore, CODEPINK volunteers in Indiana, constituents of Sen. Banks, whom he is elected to serve, are deeply offended by his public lies. They are all volunteers. They are workers, veterans, artists, and peace activists from Indiana. Senator Banks’ suggestion that they represent anything but their opinions is ridiculous. They don’t have to get paid by a foreign government to believe that the US foreign policy of endless war is wrong, unlike Senator Banks, who has taken hundreds of thousands of dollars from the AIPAC lobby, which directly represents the interests of Israel.

In today’s polarized political environment, we know that the words of U.S. elected officials can rile supporters into frenzy, as we saw on January 6, 2021, with President Trump’s loyal supporters injuring many Capitol police and destroying parts of the U.S. Capitol building in their attempt to stop the presidential election proceedings.

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CODEPINK members have challenged five administrations– both Republican and Democratic – for their war policies, beginning with the Bush wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. We have nonviolently protested the war policies of Bush, Obama, Trump, Biden, and now Trump again. CODEPINK is supported by thousands of donors and a few foundation grants from inside the United States who appreciate the organization's consistency, clarity, and non-partisan nature.

CODEPINK volunteers who are in the halls of Congress almost every day receive absolutely no funding. They not only donate their time but also their resources to come to Washington, DC, to speak out and deliver a critical message that resonates with the majority of the American public who want their tax dollars to go to helping people here at home, not hurting people overseas.

Senator Banks is deliberately using intimidation tactics against his constituents who are part of CODEPINK Indiana. We call on the Senator to revoke his request, stop lying about CODEPINK, and represent Indiana's people. We demand that Senator Banks publicly recant his statements that CODEPINK is funded by, or has anything to do with, the Communist Party of China.

Filed by CODEPINK: Women for Peace

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