

Iranians for Peace and Justice in Connecticut joined the Hartford 's anti-war protest organized by Connecticut Opposes the War.

Over 1,500 people from across the state turned out for the rally on March 17, marking the fourth anniversary of the United States invasion of the war in Iraq . Participants came with mega phones and hand painted signs to hear from a number of elected-officials, military personnel, and clergy about what it will take to put an end to the war. And more importantly, what they can do to help.

Senator Chris Dodd (D) and U.S. Rep. John Larson (D), who represents the greater Hartford area and is a member of the Out of Iraq Caucus, addressed the meetings simultaneously by conference call.

“There is no military solution at all in Iraq,” said Dodd. “If the president won’t change his course, Congress has an obligation to do so. I hope they’ll do it more aggressively.”

Larson, who attended the Windsor meeting, declared, “America found its voice in November and clearly said we need a new direction. Now it’s up to Congress to find its voice and for the president to listen.”

He said Congress should stop any new deployments, and “mandate that we bring the troops home in a safe timeframe.”

In this march, the Connecticut AFL-CIO and many individual unions, interfaith groups, churches and peace organizations rallied side-by-side in opposition to the Bush/Lieberman policy. Decrying the \$400 billion spent on the war in four years, over 3,000 Americans and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis dead and countless more wounded and displaced, they called for funding instead to “make our cities safe, provide health care, education and jobs for all, and full financial and medical support for returning troops.”