



**PANDA**  
MASSACHUSETTS

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## **Area Citizens to Rally at Worcester City Hall for Protections from Civil Rights Abuses in Defense Bill**

**Members of several Worcester-area organizations will be rallying at Worcester City Hall on Saturday, September 28 at noon to voice their concern over certain provisions in the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).**

**President Obama signed the bill into law on December 31, 2011. The law granted far-reaching powers to the President, and all future presidents, to authorize the military to arrest, indefinitely detain, and deny trial by jury to anyone, including U.S. citizens, who are suspected of some sort of affiliation with terrorism. Parts of the bill have been ruled unconstitutional by New York Federal Court Judge, and Obama appointee, Katherine Forrest.**

**James McGovern, Representative for the Second Congressional District of Massachusetts, has “serious concerns with the detainee provisions included in the bill.” He adds that the 2012 NDAA “creates too much uncertainty surrounding indefinite detention,” and that he is “pleased to see so many activists engaged in this issue at the local level.” The NDAA also endangers free speech and Fourth Amendment protections from warrantless search and seizure, due to the fact that the 2001 Patriot Act expanded the definition of “material support for terrorism” to include crimes of speech and association, even by people who neither committed, nor ever intended to support violence.**

**A resolution in support of due process will be presented at town meetings this fall and introduced to several city councils, including Worcester, in October. The resolution declares that area towns are not battlefields, are not subject to the laws of war, and that all citizens retain their natural rights. The resolution also petitions the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to defend people’s unalienable natural rights as acknowledged and defined in both the U.S. and Massachusetts Constitutions.**

**Founded in 2012, PANDA is a national, non-partisan, volunteer organization which has advanced similar resolutions in states across the country. “PANDA unites people of all political affiliations to take a stand for due process. Trial by jury is a person’s last defense against an accusation,” said Benjamin Selecky, State Team Leader of PANDA Massachusetts (People Against the NDAA).**

**For more information about PANDA or the 2012 NDAA, visit [www.pandaunite.org](http://www.pandaunite.org).**

**All questions may be directed to Benjamin Selecky at the following email address:  
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