

Hip Hop, Not War

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Young eastern Iowans are speaking out and hoping to inspire others.

Bands like 3 Lbs. of Love performed at The Reverb in Cedar Falls hoping to spread a message about more than just music.

Drummer Jeff Kessler of 3 Lbs of Love says:

"Musicians throughout history have spoken out against things that are going on in their generations and I just think we're sort of along the same lines. Playing our music, having a good time and supporting what we think is a good cause."

The event is meant to draw attention to major political issues like the war in Iraq.

Tad Bean attended the event.

"I just want to be part of this and raising awareness that there is still a pretty significant number of people against this war and would like to help out any way possible to do something about it."

Global warming and the federal budget are also top issues.

People at the event have the opportunity to sign a pledge card that says they will only caucus for a candidate who supports a significant shift in federal budget priorities.

Local organizer Chris Schwartz says 53% of our federal budget goes to the pentagon... and that needs to change.

"Candidates are gonna come here and they're gonna talk about how much they love your children and how much they want to help with education, but if you they're not talking about where the money's coming from, they're blowing smoke in your face."

Schwartz hopes while enjoying some music, young people will also walk away with information and be more politically active.

The "Make Hip-Hop, Not War" tour is visiting college towns across the country hoping to get young people involved.