

June 21, 2022

Dear Chairs, Ranking Members, and Members sitting on the Committees on the Budget, Appropriations, and Armed Services,

In the coming weeks, you will each be tasked with considering our nation's budget for Fiscal Year 2023, which includes President Biden's \$813 billion defense topline request. Though Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin testified before Congress that the defense budget proposed by the President is sufficient, and this sky-high figure is arguably well beyond what is necessary for the military to fulfill its obligation to national defense, calls to allocate tens of billions more to the Pentagon have already begun.

The undersigned 63 national organizations urge you to strongly reject all wasteful proposals for additional increases to the military budget, whether proposed as committee amendments or in behind-the-scenes negotiations..

If enacted as requested, next year's \$813 billion military budget would be roughly \$30 billion more than Fiscal Year 2022, which was roughly \$30 billion more than the President requested last year. By comparison, the Departments of State and Health and Human Services would respectively receive \$68 billion and \$138 billion, while about \$45 billion would go toward addressing the climate crisis.

Handouts to the military-industrial complex come at the expense of funding to address urgent human needs. Each time Congress adds billions to the Pentagon budget without being asked to do so, everyday Americans question why a seemingly endless supply of money exists for weapons and war, while funding to meet the direct needs of their families and community members – from expanded health care to anti-child poverty measures to climate investments, and much more – remains sparse.

Our groups span a range of issues, ideologies, and constituencies, yet we agree on one thing, [as do 63% of American voters](#): Congress should refuse to provide any more funding for the military beyond what the President requested.

Signed,

National Organizations

American Friends Service Committee
Association of Concerned Africa Scholars (USA)
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
Beyond the Bomb
Bridges Faith Initiative
Center on Conscience and War
Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy

Coalition on Human Needs
CODEPINK
Council for a Livable World
Daily Kos
Demand Progress
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends of the Earth US
Generation Conscious, Inc.
Global Zero
Greenpeace USA
Indivisible
Just Foreign Policy
MADRE
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
MoveOn
Muslims for Just Futures
National Council of Churches
National Employment Law Project
National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies
Our Revolution
Pax Christi USA
Peace Education Center
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Proposition One Campaign
Public Citizen
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Justice Team
Sojourners
Sunrise Movement
Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
Veterans for Peace
Win Without War
Women's Action for New Directions (WAND)

State and Local Organizations

Clean Air Coalition
Conejo Climate Coalition
Community Peacemaker Teams
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Disciples Peace Fellowship
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, Peace and Justice Office

Edgewood United Church, Justice and Peace Team
Greater Lansing United Nations Association
InterReligious Task Force on Central America
Massachusetts Peace Action
Megiddo Peace Project
Peace Action of Michigan
Peace Education Center
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth - Western Province Leadership Team
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth - Congregational Leadership Team
Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth - Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity
Whatcom Peace & Justice Center
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center