

June 14, 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 34 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  
Center on Conscience and War  
Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy  
Coalition on Human Needs

CODEPINK

Council for a Livable World

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Friends of the Earth US

Generation Conscious, Inc.

Global Zero

Just Foreign Policy

MADRE

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

MoveOn

Muslims for Just Futures

National Employment Law Project

National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies

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

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

Edgewood United Church, Justice and Peace Team

Greater Lansing United Nations Association

Massachusetts Peace Action

Megiddo Peace Project

Peace Action of Michigan

Peace Education Center

Whatcom Peace & Justice Center