

“Our nation is in crisis brought on in no small part by the obscenity of our spending priorities. As long as we continue to value weapons and war over the health, well-being, and safety of all American citizens, we are all endangered.”

- **Nancy Parrish**, Executive Director, Women’s Action for New Directions

“The ungodly amount of money the United States invests in weapons of war achieves just the opposite of the ‘security’ its proponents tout. Communities around the world are less safe, our economies are more fragile, and the environment continues to worsen when we invest in military solutions instead of strategies aimed at addressing economic and social injustice. Especially now our nation needs to reallocate resources to support people’s health, address climate change, promote nonviolence and restorative justice, and invest in initiatives that empower and uplift our people.”

- **Johnny Zokovitch**, Executive Director, Pax Christi USA

“Funneling trillions of dollars into the Pentagon does not buy us safety. As the COVID-19 pandemic has made all too clear, the 21st century’s greatest threats to our shared security — from pandemics to inequality to the climate crisis — do not have military solutions. We must slash the Pentagon budget, rein in the defense industry’s profit-driven expansion, and redirect our resources to meeting critical social needs. This resolution is an essential step toward setting our priorities straight and putting human needs first.”

- **Erica Fein**, Advocacy Director, Win Without War

“As protesters across the country took to the streets this week in righteous anger against police brutality, many were met with local police departments armed to the teeth with “left-over” military equipment furnished by the Pentagon. This horrifying scene laid bare a stark reality: the United States prioritizes spending billions on weapons of war at the expense of the needs of our local communities. It’s clearer now more than ever: we must cut the Pentagon budget and invest in healthcare, the Green New Deal, and the needs of our local communities.”

- **Carley Towne**, CODEPINK Divest from the War Machine Campaign

“Now is the time to cut the Pentagon budget by hundreds of billions of dollars and reallocate those funds to address the needs of communities facing ecological and societal crisis. By reducing wasteful military spending, we can prioritize peoples’ and planetary health by shifting our economy off fossil fuels, dedicating resources to climate crisis mitigation, and ensuring universal healthcare in the face of a pandemic. The connection between militarism and environmental destruction, which communities of color disproportionately bear the brunt of, cannot be ignored. As the United States reckons with its long history of violence against Black and brown communities, demilitarization is a tangible step toward addressing historical and ongoing injustices.”

- **Gaurav Madan**, Senior Campaigner, Friends of the Earth US

“The Pentagon can’t save us now. We’ve spent far too much on bombs, planes, and ships, and far too little on health care, education, housing, and infrastructure. We can’t bomb our way out of a pandemic, or racist policing and policies, or climate change, or an economic catastrophe that threatens to swallow the entire world. It’s past time to make better choices. Our lives depend on it.”

-**Lindsay Koshgarian**, Program Director, National Priorities Project, Institute for Policy Studies

"As the United States struggles with a toxic legacy of racism and faces the economic and social effects of a devastating pandemic, we are reminded yet again that we have invested in all the wrong solutions to the very pressing challenges we face today. It is past time to divest from the failed strategy of bottomless investments in militarism, and reinvest in the things that truly make us safe: access to a living wage, quality health care and education, safe housing, a security net for times of hardship, an environment free from pollution, and tools of transformative justice for all."

-**Tori Bateman**, Policy Advocacy Coordinator, American Friends Service Committee

"As a women-led movement pushing for peace on the Korean peninsula, we know that the overly-bloated Pentagon budget is a modern consequence of the military-industrial consequence ushered in by the Korean war. As we work toward a feminist overhaul of our foreign policy, we know that it will be impossible to achieve real peace until our investments line up with our actual needs. That means slashing the militarism budget and investing in human security."

- **Christine Ahn**, Executive Director, Women Cross DMZ

"As military veterans we know the futility of our war budget oftentimes is squandered on research and weapon manufacturing that rarely supports the troops or a mission of genuine defense. There is an urgency today to redistribute resources to support public development and recovery. Our military industrial complex has drained resources from poor communities to grow economic divides and create disparity that neglects vulnerable citizens and oppresses communities of color. As millions of Americans take to our own streets to challenge white supremacy, we need to evaluate our nation's investment in war and address the systematic problems in our own institutions and place our tax dollars in fighting for our public health and providing a humane quality of life for all Americans. Veterans For Peace strongly endorses Senator Barbra Lee's resolution to cut the oversized military budget by \$350 billion."

- **Garett Reppenhagen**, Director, Veterans For Peace, former US Army sniper

"The current crisis makes it abundantly clear that our country's future depends not on what we have in our arsenal, but how effectively we address the threats that our communities face on all sides, especially those most oppressed by racism and police violence -- who have also suffered the worst consequences of the pandemic, poverty and pollution. Instead of militarizing the police and policing the planet with our military, we need to stop, listen and address the needs of these frontline communities, especially communities of color."

- **Annie Leonard**, Executive Director, Greenpeace USA

"It's long past time to shift spending from the Pentagon's bloated budget to more urgent security priorities like addressing outbreaks of disease, climate change, and extreme inequality. With a more restrained strategy, we can save hundreds of billions of dollars in the years to come while making America and the world safer."

- **William Hartung**, Director, Arms and Security Program, Center for International Policy