



## To Fight Federal Occupation, Block the War Machine Now

*Senate Democrats must not give the Pentagon a blank check to terrorize communities by deploying the military to American cities.*

*Voting “no” on the NDAA motion to proceed is one way to block further escalation.*

### State of Play

On Tuesday, September 2, 2025, the U.S. Senate returns from its August recess and will immediately vote on whether or not to advance the Pentagon budget for fiscal year 2026.

Upon passage, this bill will bring the nation’s annual military spending to over \$1 trillion for the first time, due in part to \$150 billion in additional Pentagon spending included in President Trump and the GOP’s Big Ugly Budget Bill passed in July.

The reconciliation budget bill enacted [the largest slash to the social safety net in U.S. history](#) to fund plus-ups for defense contractors and tax breaks for billionaires.

Since the passage of that legislation, President Trump has sent federal troops into Washington D.C. to arrest, detain, and disappear people off the streets, under the guise of reducing crime. Masked agents, many of whom refuse to identify themselves, are actively patrolling the nation’s capital as President Trump indicates his willingness to send additional troops into cities and states across the country. What’s more, the President has just passed an Executive Order authorizing anyone with a “law enforcement background” to join National Guard members, a move preeminent civil rights lawyers are calling “[the scariest thing \[they’ve\] seen in US politics in years](#)”.

### Stemming the Flow of Funding For Militarization

**On Tuesday, Senators have a rare opportunity to say “no” to showering the military with additional funding**, much of which is slated for corporate defense contractors, surveillance entities, and expanding the President’s ability to mobilize and weaponize the National Guard to react to fake crime emergencies and concentrate power.

We cannot afford “business as usual”: blocking the advancement of a “must-pass” bill is a powerful way for Senators to advocate for the safety of their constituents and stand against the use of the U.S. military budget on domestic deployments in their home states.

**Now is not the time to spend billions (now trillion!) on the military-industrial complex and its benefactors.** An increasingly authoritarian President does not get a \$1 trillion Pentagon budget – it’s as simple as that.

## Additional talking points

- The national defense budget could surpass a trillion dollars this year for the first time in U.S. history. The Big Ugly reconciliation bill passed in July 2025 allocated an extra \$156 billion to the military.
- If this year's NDAA passes both the House and Senate, the United States will be spending close to \$3,000,000,000 (\$3 billion) per day on the military ( $\$1.05 \text{ trillion} / 365 = \sim \$2.88 \text{ billion}$ ).
- Washington D.C. is currently getting wall-to-wall coverage because of Trump's crackdown on the historically Black, overwhelmingly progressive capital city, taking advantage of its non-state status by sending in federal troops to "tackle crime".
- The increase in federal troop presence is both a test run of his ability to deploy the National Guard domestically, with parallels to the deployments in Los Angeles earlier this year.
- In addition to existing DC law enforcement, governors plan to send National Guard troops from states across the country to participate in the monitoring and terrorizing of DC residents.
- These actions are our taxpayer dollars at work in the worst imaginable way.
- Analysts at the National Priorities Project shared with the Intercept that this takeover has likely cost [more than a million dollars a day](#) since it began (based on an estimate of 2,100 National Guard members deployed in the city).
- And this has all happened *without* extra Pentagon top-ups. In addition to the amount already allocated for this fiscal year, the Big Brutal budget bill passed in July included approximately \$170 billion for enhanced immigration enforcement and more than \$150 billion in additional Pentagon spending.
- We don't have to imagine what they intend to do with that extra money: they've been telling us the whole time.
- The Trump administration's immediate aspirations include expanding detention centers like the infamous Alligator Alcatraz, awarding contracts to surveillance state tech giants like Palantir to build out a database of information on all Americans, paying a \$25 billion starting deposit on Trump's vanity "Golden Dome" space interceptor project, and ramping up the military's production of killer robots with zero regard for the human toll of these militarized escalations.
- These plans are condemnable under any administration, but this one is particularly dangerous and despotic.

- The President himself is a felon, and the sitting Secretary of Defense was caught sharing confidential national security information via Signal chat and has faced zero repercussions for the leak.
- The agents following orders from this administration are operating with increasing force and fewer protocols (wearing masks, not providing identification or badge numbers, not identifying which agency they are with, if any), and National Guard members are now walking around DC armed with weapons of war.
- No President who is shirking the rule of law should get \$150 billion more for the deepening of their security state, military-grade weaponry, or defense contractor bonuses.
- This is especially so when we know that more than half of the annual Department of Defense budget goes directly to corporate defense contractors, including companies like Lockheed Martin, Raytheon (RTX), Boeing, Northrup Grumman, or newer VC-inspired players like Palmer Luckey's Anduril and Elon Musk's SpaceX.
- The Pentagon has dramatically and opaquely expanded investment in AI and autonomous weapons ("killer robots") despite research linking AI models to increased escalation in military decision-making, especially in the use of nuclear weapons.
- These taxpayer dollars *could* be utilized to meet the true day-to-day needs of Americans, but are instead paying for defense contractor CEO payouts and failing weapons programs.
- ***Blocking the NDAA is a powerful way for Senators to take a stand against the escalation of U.S. troop presence and behavior across the country.***
- ***It is essential to stem the flow of funding to a President who has demonstrated himself more than willing to deploy the military in service of his own power.***