

February 14, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear President Biden,

We, the undersigned 59 peace, national security, climate justice, racial justice, faith, and anti-poverty groups write to urge you to present a budget request to Congress for Fiscal Year 2024 that diverts some of our super-sized Pentagon budget to better meet the needs of the American people.

While we are deeply concerned about reports of a secret deal among some Members of Congress to roll back the entire federal budget, we can not and must not defend the status quo when it comes to the Pentagon budget.

This year's military budget - \$858 billion - is the second-highest since World War II. It is [ten times](#) Russia's military budget and more than 2.5 times that of China. It is [greater than](#) the next 9 countries combined. About [\\$452 billion](#) of it will go straight into the pockets of big corporate weapons contractors. Last year, Congress added \$45 billion on top of what your administration requested - an amount [greater than](#) the entire climate investment portion of the Inflation Reduction Act. It will not take many more years for our military budget to hit the \$1 trillion mark, an astonishing sum given the Pentagon has never been able to pass an audit or properly account for the billions it already receives.

This is why we urge you to request a lower military budget this year. We reject recent calls to roll back the entire federal budget because we can and should be spending more on meeting human needs and addressing the climate emergency through a just transition from fossil fuels and support to communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis. One of the many ways we can accomplish this is by spending less on the wasteful Pentagon budget. We reject pouring our dollars into outdated ships, malfunctioning planes, or record-breaking contractor CEO salaries while everyday people remain hungry, unhoused, in need of adequate healthcare, or seeking a living wage.

Please kick off this year's budget process by putting forward a proposal that addresses our most urgent funding priorities by giving the Pentagon a direly-needed trim.

CC:

Shalanda D. Young, Office of Management and Budget Director

Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor

Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense

Sincerely,

National

Adorers of the Blood of Christ, US Region JPIC Office

American Friends Service Committee

Brave New Films

Coalition on Human Needs

CODEPINK

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces

DC Peace Team

Demand Progress Education Fund

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Friends of the Earth

Greenpeace USA

Justice Is Global

Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice

MADRE

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Medical Mission Sisters - Justice Office

MPower Change

Muslims for Just Futures

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Center for Law and Economic Justice

National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies

Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

Pax Christi USA

Peace Action

Physicians for Social Responsibility

Presentation Sisters Union - USA Unit

Public Citizen

RootsAction.org

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team

Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi

Sister of St. Joseph

The United Methodist Church -- General Board of Church and Society

United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries
Win Without War
World BEYOND War

State and Local

Arizona Physicians for Social Responsibility
Baltimore, MD Phil Berrigan Memorial Chapter Veterans For Peace
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Citizens for Peace
Dominican Sisters of Houston
Franciscan Peace Center, Clinton, Iowa
Maine Physicians for Social Responsibility
Massachusetts Peace Action
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Peace and Common Security Working Group of Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice, and the Environment
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province
Sisters, Home Visitors of Mary
Sisters of St Francis of Philadelphia
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, LA
Partnership for Earth Spirituality
Pax Christi Michigan
Peace Education Center
Peace Action of Michigan
Physicians for Social Responsibility Iowa
Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice and the Environment
Western North Carolina Physicians for Social Responsibility