

Advocacy Teams

 Friends Committee
on National Legislation

Action Sheet

fcnl.org/TeamToolkit

Legislative Ask for April 2024

Urge Congress to Rein in Wasteful Pentagon Wish Lists

April is a crucial month in this year's campaign. Congress just received this year's Unfunded Priority Lists, which add up to \$25.8 billion. This is \$10.5 billion more than last year's requests, signaling the dire need for Congressional action to end this requirement and reorient our national priorities towards the needs of the American people.

As we celebrate a victory from last year's campaign—protecting \$86 million for international peacebuilding programs despite a 6% cut in foreign assistance—we see the stark difference in how much more of our tax dollars are spent on war than peace. These peacebuilding funds are only a tiny fraction of the total requested in the Unfunded Priority Lists – and only drop in the bucket compared to the requested \$850 billion military budget as a whole.

As Americans prepare our own taxes, we feel this cost. Our communities pay the price of endless war at the expense of vital needs—from education to affordable housing—which remain drastically under-funded.

This month, Advocacy Teams can build on our lobbying during Congressional recess by engaging our communities in this year's campaign. We can host creative community events to engage our friends and neighbors in asking, "What could our community do with \$25 billion?" In response to the release of the Unfunded Priority Lists, we will also submit letters to the editor highlighting the People's Priorities that we hear from our communities.

Together, we can challenge the status quo of sky-high military spending by ending the mandate for these wish lists. We can tell a different story— one in which our communities are prioritized over endless weapons and war. Our collective action can transform this vision into reality. *Read more about our ask here:* fcnl.org/teamtoolkit



Actions to Take in April



Presentation to
Community Group

Organize a community
event to outline local
"People's Priorities"



Submit LTEs to
a local paper

Submit LTEs juxtaposing
community needs against
Pentagon wish lists