

Rein in Wasteful Pentagon Wish Lists

In a world increasingly consumed by conflict, the United States faces critical decisions regarding national security and Pentagon spending. Senate lawmakers have pushed the military budget beyond agreed-upon spending caps, resulting in a **\$27.2 billion increase over last year**, with a proposed total military budget of \$920.8 billion.

The Unfunded Priorities Lists (UPLs) are used to help justify these spending hikes. These Congressionally mandated annual "wish lists" regularly total tens of billions of dollars in spending that was not included in the president's annual budget request. The UPLs for fiscal year 2025 alone **total \$30 billion**.

The UPLs offer a backdoor for boosting military spending and have received criticism from both sides of the aisle. Even Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin himself publicly confirmed he "would support" ending this unnecessary and problematic requirement.

As a Quaker organization, FCNL believes we are called to love and care for our neighbors. Greenlighting high levels of unchecked spending on weapons and war fuels more violence and long-term insecurity while displacing vital spending on human needs.

Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Mike Lee (R-UT) have previously introduced legislation to end the annual requirement for UPLs through the ***Streamline Pentagon Budgeting Act***. Specifically, the bill would:

- » Repeal statutory requirements for the top military officers, combatant commanders, and the Missile Defense Agency to provide unfunded priorities lists.
- » Reduce wasteful reporting burdens.
- » Enhance civilian oversight over the budgetary process.
- » Increase accountability and begin the process of realigning our nation's spending priorities away from endless war and towards more pressing needs that impact our communities.

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**Support the
reintroduction of
the Streamline
Pentagon
Budgeting Act
and cosponsor
the bill once
introduced**

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