

Faith Communities Urge Congress to Reject the \$1.5 Trillion Pentagon Budget

An Interfaith Sign-On Letter to the United States Congress

April 2026

Dear [Senator / Representative]:

As faith communities across the United States, we write to urge you to reject President Trump's proposed \$1.5 trillion Pentagon budget for Fiscal Year 2027. Our traditions are united by a shared moral conviction: the call to protect human dignity, care for the vulnerable, and pursue peace demands that our nation make wiser and more just choices with its resources.

This proposed budget would represent a staggering 50 percent increase over the already enormous \$1 trillion dollar FY 2026 Pentagon budget—at a moment when millions of Americans are losing access to health care, food assistance, and other vital support. The United States already spends more on its military than the next nine countries combined, including China and Russia. A \$1.5 trillion budget would mark the first time the US has accounted for more than half of total global military spending. A Pentagon budget increase of this magnitude is not a response to genuine security needs; it is a moral failure.

Across our many traditions—Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, Quaker, Unitarian, and others—we share a common teaching: we are called to tend to the least among us—not to build ever-larger arsenals of destruction while cutting the programs that sustain life.

The human cost of this proposed budget is already visible. In H.R. 1, enacted this past summer, more than \$1 trillion was cut from Medicaid, Medicare, the Affordable Care Act, and SNAP—programs that millions of families depend on for food and health care. Some of those funds were redirected to add \$150 billion to the Pentagon. These choices have made our communities less safe, not more.

We are also deeply troubled by the lack of accountability that accompanies this unprecedented spending. The Pentagon has never passed an independent audit. More than half of its budget flows to corporate military contractors whose profits continue to rise. To dramatically increase funding for an institution that cannot account for the money it already receives is not stewardship; it is recklessness.

True security is built not on military dominance, but on the shared prosperity that comes from housing, health care, clean air and water, ending hunger, and quality public education. A nation that neglects its sick, its hungry, its unhoused, and its children while funneling ever-greater sums into an unaccountable military apparatus is fundamentally insecure, and fails to reflect the values of a just society—let alone those of the many faith traditions that have helped shape this nation's moral character.

We therefore call on Congress to:

1. **Reject** the proposed \$1.5 trillion Pentagon budget and oppose any increase in Pentagon funding for FY 2027.
2. **Protect** funding for essential human needs programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, housing assistance, education and other programs that support the health and dignity of millions of Americans.
3. **Demand accountability** from the Department of Defense, including a credible path toward passing a full financial audit before any further budget increases are considered.

4. **Invest in alternatives to militarism**—such as foreign aid, diplomacy, peacebuilding, and nonviolent social movements to ensure true human national and global security.

At this critical moment, we ask Congress to act with moral clarity. We urge you to move forward wisely, justly, and in the spirit of the common good.

Sincerely,

Signed Organizations:

A Community Voice ACORN

Alliance of Baptists

American Friends Service Committee

Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice

Center on Conscience & War

Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy

Church World Service

Colombia Human Rights Committee

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

Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes Peace & Justice Office

Dominican Sisters of Hope

Dominican Sisters of Peace

Dominican Sisters of San Rafael

Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa Peace and Justice Office

Emmanuel Congregational UCC, Watertown NY

Faithful America

Felician Sisters of North America

Franciscan Action Network

Franciscan Peace Center, Clinton, Iowa

Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC

Interfaith Fairbanks Community Minister

Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)

Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice
Latin America Working Group Education Fund
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Medical Mission Sisters
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
MPower Change Action Fund
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Muslim Civic Coalition
Muslim Community Network
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Council of Churches
Pax Christi USA
Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness
Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
Presentation Sisters San Francisco
Presentation Sisters Union - US Unit
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Sisters of IHM, JPIC Committee, Scranton, PA
Sisters of the Holy Family
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell -Commission on Global Issues
Sisters of St. Dominic/Racine Dominicans
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa
Sisters of St. Francis Leadership Team, Dubuque, Iowa
Sisters of St. Joseph Associates
Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia
Sisters of the Humility of Mary
Sisters of the Precious Blood Justice Committee

Springfield Dominican Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

Texas Impact

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

United Church of Christ

United Women in Faith

The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society

US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO)
