

Invest in People, Divest from War: A budget for Taxpayers, Not Shareholders

Topline Talking Points in Response to FY23 Budget Proposal

- **It's unsustainable, we cannot afford another war on the nation's credit card.** Since 1998, Congress has appropriated well over half of the discretionary budget to the Department of Defense, nuclear weapons programs, and war. The United States already spends more on the military than the next [ten](#) countries combined—most of which are allies and contribute to our collective defense. With the federal debt hitting a [record high of \\$30 trillion](#), government spending should reflect efforts to save costs.
- **Pentagon spending is starving domestic investment and economic growth.** The dollars that fund crucial investments in programs [proven](#) to help low and middle-income families fight poverty have been [cut over the years](#) to fund the Pentagon. Large cuts in funding for [higher education](#) have led to considerable tuition increases, pushing more of the costs to students; narrow qualification guidelines for [food and nutrition assistance](#) left many families struggling to [afford adequate food](#); and [cutbacks](#) in housing assistance left many individuals and families [struggling](#) to afford adequate housing.
- **The Pentagon cannot account for the money it currently receives from taxpayers.** The Pentagon has [failed](#) all four audits it has conducted. In 2018, investigators found that the Defense Logistics Agency could not account for more than [\\$800 million in construction projects](#).
- **Defense corporations are not good stewards of taxpayer dollars.** Their goal is to make money for shareholders, not spend tax dollars efficiently. [Nearly half](#) of Pentagon funds are distributed to private companies.
- **Public dollars invested in clean energy, health care, and education create significantly more jobs—in some cases as many as double the jobs—in our local economies when compared to investing an equivalent amount in the military sector.**
- **It contributes to the climate crisis.** Since the global war on terror began in 2001, the U.S. military has produced [1.2 billion metric tons of greenhouse-gas emissions](#), or as much as 257 million passenger cars annually, roughly as many registered vehicles as there are in the entire U.S. That's a higher annual output than entire countries like Morocco, Sweden, and Switzerland. For [over thirty years](#), presidents from both parties have raised climate change as a significant threat to national security in their National Security Strategies.
- **Russia's war in Ukraine does not necessitate additional U.S. military spending.** The U.S. has provided [more than \\$1 billion](#) in security assistance to Ukraine over the past year, and [authorized](#) another \$1 billion in new military aid just in the month of March. Additionally, many other European allies and partners have also [committed](#) to providing military assistance to Ukraine. As the war in Ukraine evolves, any additional U.S. military support should be provided from the existing Pentagon budget, rather than new funding.