

14 March 2023

Dear members of Congress,

As faith-based organizations, we watch the United States' rapidly growing military budget with great concern. The country is sprinting towards a trillion-dollar budget for weapons and war — propping up an expensive and harmful militarized foreign policy while people struggle to meet their basic needs. We cannot continue down this morally bankrupt path. **We urge members of Congress to dramatically cut militarized spending in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget — both to facilitate reinvestment in the wellbeing of our communities, and to curtail the harms of our militarized foreign policy.**

People and organizations on both sides of the political aisle have argued that cuts to bloated and unaccountable Pentagon spending are possible and desirable — to cut waste, to fight corruption, to reinvest in human wellbeing, and to challenge our militarized foreign policy. President Biden's National Security Strategy recognizes the importance of investment in our communities, saying that “the most impactful public investments are the ones we make in our people,” including affordable health and child care, job training, and education. As the chorus of people and organizations questioning the United States' absurd military budget grows, our faith groups write once again to make the *moral* case for cutting spending on weapons and war.

Our faiths lay out the moral imperatives of caring for the common good, building sustainable peace, and being good stewards of our resources. The current U.S. budget does not address the urgent threats facing our communities. The budget's emphasis on military strength is in direct opposition to these moral duties. The sky-high war budget siphons resources away from investments in healthcare, housing, and education. War spending crowds out investment in peacebuilding and diplomacy, resulting in the loss of critical opportunities for nonviolent conflict prevention and transformation. And the constant waste, fraud, and abuse at the Pentagon and by corporate war contractors siphons taxpayer dollars away from our communities and into the pockets of corporations.

As budget negotiations begin for Fiscal Year 2024, our faith organizations urge you to cut spending on weapons and war, and to instead focus our national spending on human wellbeing.

Sincerely,

National & International Faith-Based Organizations

Adorers of the Blood of Christ, US Region JPIC Office

Adrian Dominican Sisters

Alliance of Baptists

American Friends Service Committee

Benedictine Oblate
Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy
Community Peacemaker Teams
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR-USA)
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
Hindus for Human Rights
Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center
InterReligious Task Force on Central America
Leadership Team of the Felician Sisters of North America
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Medical Mission Sisters - Justice Office
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Moravian Church Northern Province
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Council of Churches
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
Pax Christi USA
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
Presentation Sisters Union - USA Unit
School Sisters of Notre Dame
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership
Sisters of Charity, BVM
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Sisters of the Holy Cross
Society of Helpers
Sojourners
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries

State & Local Faith-Based Organizations

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Bristol Friends Meeting

Dominican Sisters of Houston

Dominican Sisters - Grand Rapids (MI)

Dominican Sisters in Committed Collaboration

Franciscan Peace Center, Clinton, Iowa

Madison Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

North Carolina Council of Churches

Northern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Oxford (Ohio) Friends (Quaker) Meeting

Partnership for Earth Spirituality

Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore

PECSC Committee, Berkeley Friends Church

Pennsylvania Council of Churches

Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator

School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province

Sister of Francis Rochester MN

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Albany

Sisters of St. Joseph

Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, PA

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, LA