



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, July 17, 2022

Seeking a Nonviolent Future Together

Inequality eventually engenders a violence which recourse to arms cannot and never will be able to resolve. It serves only to offer false hopes to those clamouring for heightened security, even though nowadays we know that weapons and violence, rather than providing solutions, create new and more serious conflicts. — Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* (“*The Joy of the Gospel*”), November 24, 2013, #60.

“Continuously escalating military budgets are not making us secure and are actually undermining our wellbeing as a nation by squandering funding needed to meet critical needs such as health, education, housing, transportation, nutrition, and efforts to address climate change and systemic racial oppression. [Click here to contact your senators and representative](#) and demand that they reject proposed increases to the FY-23 Pentagon budget.

Background

Over the past two weeks, **both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees voted to increase the FY-23 Pentagon budget by tens of billions of dollars** (Senate \$45 billion, House \$37 billion) above what the Biden administration requested (\$813 billion) in March. These budget increases enjoyed overwhelming bipartisan support in both committees with the Senate vote 27-3 and the House 57-1. It is noteworthy that in our highly polarized political climate, lawmakers are able to come to such a strong consensus on funding for the military.

President Biden’s FY-23 budget request represented an increase of \$31 billion over FY-22. This means that the Senate is seeking an increase of \$76 billion and the House \$68 billion above FY-22 spending.

To put these numbers in perspective, Congress funded less than half of what President Biden requested to address ongoing efforts to deal with COVID-19 (\$10 billion rather than \$22.5 billion), such as vaccine production, testing, and treatment. Even the full amount represents just 2.6 percent of what the Senate is seeking for the Pentagon. Yet Congress was unwilling to spend this miniscule sum to deal with a health crisis that has taken the lives of more than one million U.S. residents.

It is disturbing to see the ease with which lawmakers allocate massive sums of money to the military while adopting a penny-pinching stance toward programs that make a real difference in people’s lives and promote genuine security.” (Sisters of Mercy, *Mercy Justice Team*, June 28, 2022)

INSTEAD how about calling on Senator Schumer and the Senate to pass \$555 billion in historic investments that will deliver on climate, justice, jobs, and clean energy to protect our health, economy, and the environment. [Click on the icon below](#). (*Interfaith Power & Light*, 7/9/22)



Our climate can't
wait! Act Now!.mhtn