

Resisting Out of Control Pentagon Spending

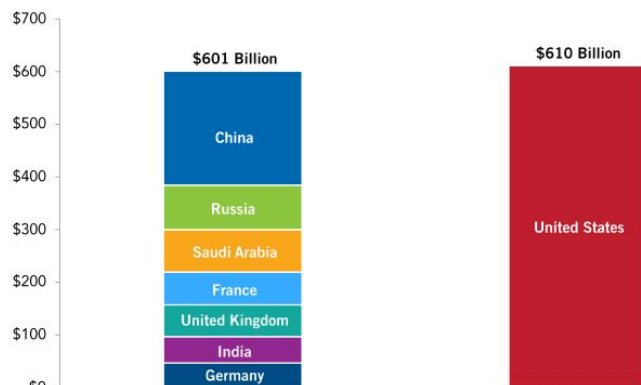
The Pentagon Budget

The U.S. spends more on its military than the next seven countries combined. Yet President Trump has requested a 10% increase in military spending. 53% of the U.S. Discretionary Budget went to the military in 2016. These numbers don't include the budgets for the C.I.A., N.S.A., and Department of Homeland Security.



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Defense Spending (Billions of Dollars)

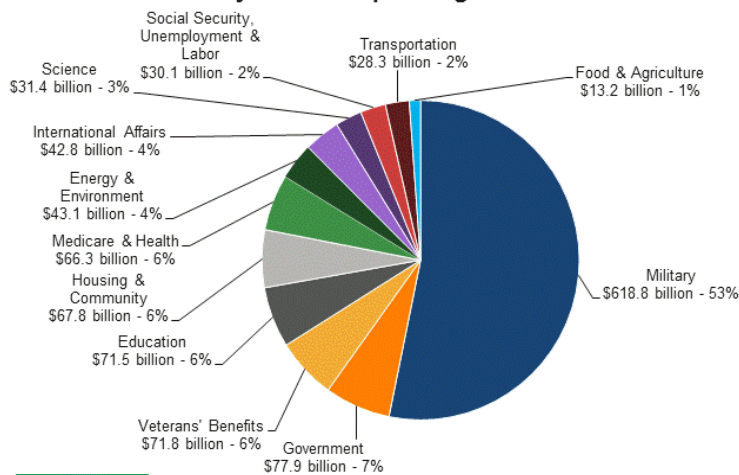


SOURCE: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, SIPRI Military Expenditure Database, April 2015. Data are for 2014. Compiled by PGPF. NOTE: Figures are in U.S. dollars, converted from local currencies using market exchange rates.

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Discretionary Federal Spending 2016: \$1.16 Trillion



nationalpriorities.org



Source: OMB, National Priorities Project

Skewed Spending Priorities

The discretionary budget, a portion of the total budget that Congress decides how to allocate on a yearly basis, shows you how skewed our government's priorities are. It also helps explain why there never seems to be enough money for education, healthcare, science, and other critical programs. Even a small reduction to the Pentagon budget would amount to a major boost for these other programs.

Robbing Peter to Pay the Military Industrial Complex

In order to pay for his massive increase to the Pentagon budget, Trump plans to pillage funds from other essential programs. Among other cuts, Trump's budget would siphon:

- **\$11 billion from the State Department and foreign aid:** a 29% cut to programs that offer more effective approaches to conflicts than the use of military force, namely diplomacy and humanitarian aid.



- **\$9 billion from the Department of Education:** a 14% cut to federal discretionary funding for ensuring every child has access to a quality education.



- **\$2.5 billion from the Labor Department:** a 21% cut that would severely impact the department's ability to provide job training and placement programs for youth and senior citizens.



What Concerned Citizens Can Do About It

- **Contact your Senators and your Representative** and let them know your thoughts on this issue.
 - Call the Capitol switchboard at **202-224-3121** to get connected with their offices.
 - Lookup your members of Congress online to find out how to contact them by email.
- **Write and submit letters to the editor** in response to articles on this topic.
 - Letters to the editor can be a powerful way to educate the public and influence public opinion.
 - Find an article that you want to correct, critique, add to, or reinforce and try to keep your letter short and to the point.
 - Check the papers guidelines for submitting letters to the editor, and follow them.
 - Local papers will be easier to get placed in, but if you're feeling ambitious, you can always write a letter to major papers like the New York Times.
- **Attend meetings, rallies, protests**, and any gathering designed to raise public awareness and scrutiny of the issue.