



Reject Increases in Pentagon Spending

The president and key congressional leaders are calling for large increases in Pentagon spending and lifting current budget caps this year. Other leaders in both major political parties have opposed increasing Pentagon spending. Some members of Congress oppose increases because of concerns about budget deficits or waste, fraud, and abuse in the Pentagon. Others find it morally wrong to increase Pentagon spending while programs that allow Americans to meet their basic needs face deep cuts.

Members of Congress will have several opportunities in 2017 to vote against proposed increases and support maintaining caps on Pentagon spending. Our faith leads us to question any rise in Pentagon spending. Our views on sound public policy lead us to urge Congress to reject any increases and support current legal limits on spending for defense.

- » **Pentagon Spending.** Although Pentagon spending has decreased since the U.S. ended major troop deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, it remains at or above \$600 billion per year – a level nearly equal to spending at the height of the Cold War and Vietnam War even after adjusting for inflation.
- » **Waste, Fraud, and Abuse.** The Pentagon wastes more money in a single year than the entire budget of other cabinet agencies. It is the only cabinet agency that is unable to audit its financials. The Pentagon suppressed an internal report that found \$125 billion in waste over five years, according to the *Washington Post*.
- » **Misplaced Priorities.** The House budget proposal released in April 2016 cut programs for low and moderate-income individuals by \$3.7 trillion while boosting Pentagon spending by an additional \$250 billion over 10 years.
- » **Opportunities this Year.** Budget caps in current law would require cuts in both defense and non-defense programs, but some leaders are calling for Congress to repeal the caps on the Pentagon while making drastic funding cuts to programs that serve low income families. If Congress does nothing, Pentagon spending will decrease.

**Publicly oppose and
vote against any
increases in Pentagon
spending.**

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