



Pax Christi USA

Legislative Visits Talking Points

Primary asks of your Member in the House of Representatives:

1. Will you sign on as a cosponsor of the People Over Pentagon Act of 2022 (H.R.8040)?
2. Will you make a public statement that the U.S. should shift money from the bloated military to local needs?

People Over Pentagon Act of 2022 (H.R.8040)

1. Who:
 - a. The bill was introduced to Congress on June 13th, 2022, led by U.S. House Representatives Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) and Mark Pocan (D-Wisc.)
 - b. Meet with your representative, requesting that they sign on as a cosponsor of the bill
 - c. There are currently only 15 cosponsors – the full list can be [found here](#).
2. What:
 - a. The People Over Pentagon Act would reduce Pentagon spending and invest in domestic and human needs priorities.
 - b. Pentagon spending would be reduced by at least \$100 billion immediately, which would free up \$1 trillion or more over the next decade for domestic & international human needs priorities.
 - c.
3. Where:
 - a. Funding should be redirected towards local needs – especially programs that support community members (i.e., education, housing, food access, etc.)
 - b. The Congressional Budget Office created a report in 2021 that demonstrates how \$100 billion could be cut from the Pentagon without impacting security. [View the report here](#).

4. When:
 - a. Cosponsors should sign onto the bill by the end of the year
 - b. With midterm elections coming up, public statements that could be shared before November would be great help in calling attention to military spending.
5. Why:
 - a. Congress has the authority to determine the military budget annually. Trends show that the funding allocation will continue to increase year-to-year if a radical shift is not made soon. The Pentagon has never passed an audit, yet they continue to receive hundreds of billions of dollars year after year.
 - b. Communities are not made more secure by endless military spending. The urgent threats this country is facing include climate change, the pandemic and its impacts on health and the economy, lack of affordable housing, systemic racism, etc.). Programs that support the wellness and livelihoods of individuals will make for more peaceful communities.

>> For more suggestions and guidance, check out the AFSC messaging guide on support for cutting Pentagon spending [here](#).