

## Rein in Pentagon Spending

### The U.S. Compared to the World

The U.S. spends more on its military than the next ten countries combined,<sup>1</sup> yet President Trump's FY 2020 budget request included \$750 billion in Pentagon spending, a \$34 billion or 5 percent increase<sup>2</sup> from the 2019 budget. Congress should reject this massive increase to the Pentagon's already-bloated budget and seek cuts to top-line Pentagon spending.

### Spending Trade-offs

To pay for his proposed increases in Pentagon spending, President Trump's budget proposal includes major cuts to programs that seek to end and prevent conflict and address human needs.

The president's budget proposes cutting:

- State Department funding by 23.3 percent
- Department of Education funding by 12 percent
- Housing and Urban Development funding by 16.4 percent
- Department of Transportation funding by 21.5 percent
- Department of Labor funding by 9.7 percent
- Environmental Protection Agency funding by 31 percent

These cuts would have severe impacts on programs already suffering from insufficient funding. For example, while the United States continues to spend more than the next ten countries combined on its military, it is finishing 27th in the world in education and healthcare.<sup>3</sup> We need a budget that represents our nation's priorities, not the defense industry's.

### The Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) Slush Fund

The Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) budget is a massive slush fund; a budgetary gimmick that sidesteps mandatory budget caps meant to keep our nation's debt in check.

- While it was originally authorized as an emergency fund to cover unforeseen needs in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, it is now regularly used to pad baseline Pentagon spending.
- The fund is notorious for its lack of transparency, which allows the Pentagon to sidestep oversight and accountability standards that baseline Pentagon spending is subjected to.
- President Trump's FY 2020 budget request includes \$165 billion in OCO funding, more than doubling last year's enacted OCO budget of \$81 billion.

### Steps Members of Congress Can Take

- **Oppose President Trump's request for \$750 billion in Pentagon spending, and his request for \$165 billion for the OCO slush fund, and support cuts to topline Pentagon spending.**
- **Support eliminating the OCO slush fund.**
- **Support the Congressional Progressive Caucus' People's Budget.**

<sup>1</sup> Graphic: Top-15 Defence Spenders, 2018, The International Institute for Strategic Studies, February 15, 2019

<sup>2</sup> Koshgarian, Lindsay, and Ashik Siddique, *Trump's FY2020 Budget Request Bloats Militarized Spending—and Slashes Actual Human Needs*, National Priorities Project, March 11, 2019

<sup>3</sup> Bendix, Aria, *The US was once a leader for healthcare and education — now it ranks 27th in the world*, Business Insider, September 27, 2018