

“Of the many, many sectors of the economy and society that are underfunded, the Pentagon is not among them. If there are unmet military infrastructure needs, the bloated Pentagon budget is more than enough to attend to them. No way should a dollar be siphoned from bridges, clean water, broadband, child care, poverty reduction, health care, averting catastrophic climate change or other acute needs in order to stuff more money in the Pentagon’s overflowing coffers.”

Robert Weissman, President, Public Citizen

"With a budget of over three quarters of a trillion per year, the Pentagon and arms dealers simply don't need any more money. But to add Pentagon pork to an initiative meant for the prosperity and safety of our communities would be truly callous. Dollar for dollar, more jobs are created when invested in sectors like clean energy and education than in defense spending. That's why, when the ink is dried, any legislation under the Build Back Better plan should robustly support the people of this country and include zero dollars for the Pentagon budget."

Erica Fein, Senior Washington Director, Win Without War

“One crucial thing the pandemic taught us is that we have not invested enough in keeping our people safe from threats to our health and economic security. The Biden plans make investments that protect us. Congress should invest in health, housing, jobs, and education, and resist the temptation to add yet more spending for the Pentagon and its overpaid military contractors.”

Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director, Coalition on Human Needs

"Defense funding for the Pentagon, which has never passed an audit, is already at an all-time high. Instead of further lining the pockets of defense contractors, we must cut Pentagon dollars from the infrastructure bill and ensure our tax dollars benefit communities suffering from housing insecurity, hunger, and violent racist and patriarchal policymaking."

Mac Hamilton, Advocacy Director, Women's Action for New Directions

"If there ever was a time to make it clear that our national investment should be steered to the urgent needs of our communities and not the Pentagon, now is that time. The crises our communities face can not be addressed by war profiteers and weapons manufacturers. Every dollar in Build Better Back Better needs to go toward addressing fundamental human needs."

Johnny Zokovitch, Executive Director, Pax Christi USA

"When we ask for spending on clean water, housing, and schools, Congress tacks on more money for weapons and war. This is unacceptable, and Congress must soundly reject all attempts to funnel money meant for our communities into weapons, war, and the pockets of defense contractors."

Tori Bateman, Policy Advocacy Coordinator, American Friends Service Committee

“Putting infrastructure money into a massively overfunded institution whose purpose has been accurately and popularly described as ‘to kill people and break things’ is the opposite of infrastructure and of what’s needed to protect human and other life on earth.”

David Swanson, Executive Director, World BEYOND War

“It is imperative that we realign our national values and how we define ‘national security,’ as well as address domestic needs and structural injustice. The pandemic has laid bare the need to shift where we place our priorities—and our resources. We reaffirm a [message](#) that Pope Francis had offered to world leaders on the pandemic, ‘This crisis is affecting us all, rich and poor alike,’ noting that the crisis is ‘putting a spotlight on hypocrisy,’ criticizing world leaders who rush to save lives while they keep manufacturing weapons, building massive arsenals and perpetuating unjust economic systems.”

Jean Stokan, Justice Coordinator for Nonviolence

"Every extra dollar for the military budget is a dollar robbed from the critical task that lies ahead of us: transforming our infrastructure to address the realities of climate change. It would be a crime to flood the Pentagon and private military contractors with more cash so they can continue to destroy infrastructure in other countries and contaminate land in this country."

Carley Towne, Co-Director, CODEPINK

“The U.S. must reorient its priorities to protect the health and welfare of its people--and build toward a just and sustainable future. Don't divert infrastructure resources to the military.”

Martin Fleck, Director, Nuclear Weapons Abolition Program, Physicians for Social Responsibility