



Kate Harrison
Councilmember, District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR
February 28, 2023

To: Honorable Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Kate Harrison
Subject: Resolution in Support of HR 8040: the People Over the Pentagon Act

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt resolution and send letters of support for reintroduction and passage of HR 8040: the People Over the Pentagon Act to California's congressional delegation accompanied by provisions for a just transition for workers in militarized industries. HR 8040 calls for reducing the bloated military budget by \$100 billion.

BACKGROUND

The 2021-22 Pentagon Budget was \$723 billion, larger than that of the next seven countries combined, eleven times greater than Russia's military budget and four times the size of China's – far in excess of what is required to defend the United States and support our allies. The Pentagon Budget for 2023 includes a \$33 billion increase over the 2021-2022 budget, and, unlike that of every other major federal agency, has never been successfully audited.

The federal budget is key to addressing many urgent unmet national priorities, including housing, infrastructure, renewable energy, health care, education, environmental degradation and remediation, economic insecurity, and climate change, that are not allocated sufficient resources in large part because of excessive military spending.

Since 2019, the People Over Pentagon campaign and coalition has sought to reduce the size of the Pentagon budget by reallocating funds to critical domestic and human needs. U.S. House Representatives Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) and Mark Pocan (D-Wisc.) introduced The People Over Pentagon Act (H.R. 8040) last year to redirect \$100 billion from the three-quarters-of-a-trillion-dollar Pentagon budget in military spending.¹

The proposed reallocation would not affect pay, healthcare, or retirement benefits for military personnel and their families. In addition, a 2021 Congressional Budget Office report found that this redirection of funds could be accomplished without impacting the defense of the United States.²

¹ <https://peopleoverpentagon.org/bill/>

² <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/57128>

In 2019, the Project on Government Oversight, Center for International Policy, and Public Citizen found that the following cuts could be made:

- 1 – Don't create a Space Force—save \$2.6 billion.
- 2 – Eliminate the Overseas Contingency Operations account—save \$68.8 billion to \$174 billion.
- 3 – Cut service contracting by 15 percent—save \$26 billion.
- 4 – End use-it-or-lose-it contract spending—save \$18 billion.
- 5 – Freeze operations and maintenance budget levels—save \$6 billion.
- 6 – Replace some military personnel with civilian employees—save \$200 million.
- 7 – Provide \$16 billion per year for naval ship construction—save \$4.6 billion.
- 8 – Retain a nuclear triad with 8 submarines, 150 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), and 1,000 warheads—save \$100 million.
- 9 – Defer or cancel development of the B-21 Bomber—save \$3 billion.
- 10 – Reduce the size of the bomber force by retiring the B-1B—save \$1.8 billion.
- 11 – Cancel the Long-Range Standoff Weapon—save \$1.4 billion.
- 12 – Replace future F-35s with F-16s and F-18s—save \$2.4 billion.
- 13 – Reduce U.S. presence in Afghanistan by half—save \$23.15 billion.
- 14 – Retire the F-22—save \$2.9 billion.
- 15 – Cancel the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense System (GMD)—save \$2.5 billion.
- 16 – Cancel development and production of a new missile in the Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent Program—save \$400 million.
- 17 – Cancel the Ford-class carrier program—save \$1 billion.
- 18 – Authorize another Base Realignment and Closure process—save \$2 billion per year.
- 19 – Authorize a Base Realignment and Closure process for the nuclear labs—save \$1 billion per year.
- 20 – Implement open Defense Department Inspector General recommendations—save \$2.3 billion.

21 – Reduce administrative waste, including excessive contractor staffing—save \$25 billion.

22 – Reduce active troop presence in Europe to 40,000—save \$1.5 billion.

23 – Reduce active troop presence in the India-Pacific Command Region to 66,000—save \$2.36 billion.³

The National Priorities Project found that cuts consistent with H.R. 8040 could:

- power every household in the United States with solar energy;
- hire one million elementary school teachers;
- provide free tuition for a supermajority of public college students;
- send every household in the U.S. a \$700 check.⁴

The Alameda County Democratic Central Committee passed a similar resolution.

In the interest of providing critical domestic and human services to Berkeley's population, it is in the public interest for the Council to convey its support for reintroduction and passage of H.R. 8040 with a just transition for workers in militarized industries.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Limited staff time associated with sending a letter to designated recipients.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The U.S. military is one of the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases and has a long history of environmental destruction.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Kate Harrison 510-981-7140

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Support Letters
3. HR 8040

³ <https://peopleoverpentagon.org/guidetocuts/>

⁴ <https://www.nationalpriorities.org/interactive-data/trade-offs/?state=00&program=111111>

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

IN SUPPORT OF HR 8040: PEOPLE OVER THE PENTAGON ACT

WHEREAS, the 2021-22 Pentagon Budget was \$723 billion, larger than that of the next seven countries combined, eleven times greater than Russia's military budget and four times the size of China's – far in excess of what is required to defend the United States and support our allies; and

WHEREAS, the Pentagon Budget for 2023 includes a \$33 billion increase over the 2021-2022 budget, and, unlike that of every other major federal agency, has never been successfully audited; and

WHEREAS, The federal budget is key to addressing many urgent unmet national priorities, including housing, infrastructure, renewable energy, health care, education, environmental degradation and remediation, economic insecurity, and climate change, that are not allocated sufficient resources in large part because of excessive military spending; and

WHEREAS, members of the House are pursuing an ongoing effort to decrease the military budget, and the Congressional Budget Office has produced the study 'National Defense Under a Smaller Budget.'

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it supports these efforts and the reintroduction and passage of HR 8040 to reduce the military budget by \$100 billion, accompanied by provisions for a just transition for workers in militarized industries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk send a copy of this Resolution and letters of support to Senators Feinstein and Padilla, and Congresswoman Lee.

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Berkeley City Council Support for HR 8040: People Over the Pentagon Act

Dear Senator Feinstein,

We write to express our strong support for reintroduction and passage of HR 8040: People Over the Pentagon Act, which would cut \$100 billion from the Pentagon budget and reallocate it to critical domestic and human services.

The 2021-22 Pentagon Budget was \$723 billion, larger than that of the next seven countries combined, eleven times greater than Russia's military budget and four times the size of China's – far in excess of what is required to defend the United States and support our allies. The Pentagon Budget for 2023 includes a \$33 billion increase over the 2021-2022 budget, and, unlike that of every other major federal agency, has never been successfully audited.

The federal budget is key to addressing many urgent unmet national priorities, including housing, infrastructure, renewable energy, health care, education, environmental degradation and remediation, economic insecurity, and climate change, that are not allocated sufficient resources in large part because of excessive military spending.

We respectfully request that the bill be amended to include provisions for a just transition for workers in militarized industries.

For these reasons, the Berkeley City Council strongly supports reintroduction and passage of HR 8040.

Sincerely,

The Berkeley City Council

Senator Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate
Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Berkeley City Council Support for HR 8040: People Over the Pentagon Act

Dear Senator Padilla,

We write to express our strong support for reintroduction and passage of HR 8040: People Over the Pentagon Act, which would cut \$100 billion from the Pentagon budget and reallocate it to critical domestic and human services.

The 2021-22 Pentagon Budget was \$723 billion, larger than that of the next seven countries combined, eleven times greater than Russia's military budget and four times the size of China's – far in excess of what is required to defend the United States and support our allies. The Pentagon Budget for 2023 includes a \$33 billion increase over the 2021-2022 budget, and, unlike that of every other major federal agency, has never been successfully audited.

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For these reasons, the Berkeley City Council strongly supports reintroduction and passage of HR 8040.

Sincerely,

The Berkeley City Council

Representative Barbara Lee
2470 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Berkeley City Council Support for HR 8040: People Over the Pentagon Act

Dear Representative Lee,

We write to express our strong support for reintroduction and passage of HR 8040: People Over the Pentagon Act, which would cut \$100 billion from the Pentagon budget and reallocate it to critical domestic and human services.

The 2021-22 Pentagon Budget was \$723 billion, larger than that of the next seven countries combined, eleven times greater than Russia's military budget and four times the size of China's – far in excess of what is required to defend the United States and support our allies. The Pentagon Budget for 2023 includes a \$33 billion increase over the 2021-2022 budget, and, unlike that of every other major federal agency, has never been successfully audited.

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For these reasons, the Berkeley City Council strongly supports reintroduction and passage of HR 8040.

Sincerely,

The Berkeley City Council

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8040

To reduce the amount authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2022

Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. OMAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To reduce the amount authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “People Over Pentagon
5 Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) many of the most urgent threats to the na-
2 tional security of the United States are not military
3 in nature;

4 (2) the Federal budget should reflect the na-
5 tional priorities of the United States; and

6 (3) in order to better protect the security of all
7 people and address the national priorities of the
8 United States, the budget of the Department of De-
9 fense should be reduced and the associated savings
10 should be reallocated.

11 **SEC. 3. REDUCTION IN AMOUNTS AUTHORIZED TO BE AP-**
12 **PROPRIATED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DE-**
13 **FENSE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The amount authorized to be ap-
15 propriated for the Department of Defense for 2023 is—

16 (1) the aggregate amount appropriated for the
17 Department of Defense for fiscal year 2022 in divi-
18 sion C of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022
19 (Public Law 117–103), reduced by

20 (2) \$100,000,000,000.

21 (b) FUNDING FOR CERTAIN ACCOUNTS.—The
22 amount authorized to be appropriated for each of the fol-
23 lowing accounts of the Department of Defense shall be the
24 amount authorized to be appropriated for such account
25 for fiscal year 2022:

1 (1) The Defense Health Program.

2 (2) Each military personnel account.

3 (3) Each account providing for pay and benefits
4 for persons appointed into the civil service as defined
5 in section 2101 of title 5, United States Code.

6 (c) APPLICATION OF FUNDING CUTS.—In reducing
7 funding for Department of Defense programs in accord-
8 ance with subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall
9 take into consideration the findings and recommendations
10 contained in the Congressional Budget Office report enti-
11 tled “Illustrative Options for National Defense Under a
12 Smaller Defense Budget” and dated October 2021.

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