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ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS
FOR GLOBAL PEACE WITH JUSTICE

**Confronting Chaos, Forging Community
Challenging Racism, Materialism and Militarism**

**Congressional Lobby Day
April 24, 2017**

As people of faith, we call on Congress to make budget decisions that advance the common good. Rather than increasing Pentagon spending, we urge Congress to preserve robust funding for programs that help provide support to people living in poverty and other vulnerable persons in America and abroad, address systemic racism, and exercise responsible care for the earth.

We call on Congress to robustly fund human needs in the United States and abroad

Too many people in our country and around our globe work hard for a better life for their families, but are struggling to meet basic human needs. In the beloved community, we are all brothers and sisters sharing responsibility for each other, for all living things, and for the protection of our earth for generations to come.

- Congress should ensure that ordinary people, especially, low-income families and those unable to find work have **assistance that makes it possible for parents to work, and to access good nutrition, quality healthcare and affordable housing.**
- Congress must **increase our nation's commitment to Americans of color** by funding efforts to remedy unjust treatment in education, in employment, by the criminal justice system and in access to housing, economic opportunity, government services and a healthy environment.
- Congress must be responsive to the needs of our brothers and sisters across the globe – enhancing U.S. and global human security -- by **supporting robust foreign assistance focused on food security, broad-based development, health and nutrition, environmental stewardship and the prevention of violent conflicts.**
- The United States must be an example for the nations by providing **robust assistance for refugees abroad and urge the President to restore resettlement in the U.S. to 110,000 at a minimum.**
- Congress should **reject funding to implement President Trump's executive orders on immigration, build a wall and more detention centers, and increase raids and deportations of our community members.** These and other anti-immigrant policies are unnecessary and not cost-effective.



- Congress should enable our responsibility to act as wise stewards of the earth and its environment. Congress should take **robust measures to address climate change, fully fund our government’s ability to safeguard clean air and water, and reduce industrial pollution that contaminates the environment and harms human health.**

We call on Congress to reject increases in Pentagon spending, especially at the expense of human needs.

- **To increase Pentagon spending at the expense of domestic and international investments in human wellbeing and the common good is cruel and short-sighted.** As President Dwight D. Eisenhower said, “Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.” The U.S. spends more on its military than the next eight countries combined. If the U.S. increases military spending other countries are likely to follow, inciting a new arms race. **A thorough audit to track how the Pentagon spends its money, prioritizing its mission and eliminating waste must take priority over unwise and unaffordable increases.**
- **Congress can enhance true U.S. and human security by maintaining or increasing robust funding for diplomacy, human development, strengthening democratic institutions and strategic conflict resolution and peace-building.** Our safety and wellbeing – and that of vulnerable peoples worldwide – depends on rethinking security. Overwhelming evidence shows that wars and a reliance on militarism have bought greater human insecurity. Investment in sustainable wellbeing, peace-building and systems that move toward greater fairness and justice are shown again and again to create stability and security.

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