An amendment in the Senate and in the House is calling for a 10% reduction in the grotesquely expensive expenditure of $744 billion dollars in the National defense Authorization Act of 2021, money from taxpayers at a time of record unemployment, pending evictions, loved ones dying, expensive health bills, children’s lives and education disrupted. A Cut 10% of annual Pentagon spending to invest in education, health care and poverty reduction in America’s most marginalized communities no longer seems radical. In the Senate, Senator Schumer has joined Senators Ed Markey (D-Mass.) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), and Bernie Sanders and Representatives Mark Pocan (D-Wis.) and Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), have a similar amendment with growing support in the House which “would take $74 billion in annual savings from the Pentagon—exempting salaries and health care—to create a domestic federal grant program to fund health care, housing, childcare and educational opportunities for cities and towns experiencing a poverty rate of 25% or more. This amendment garnered the support of more than 60 national organizations fighting for economic, environmental, and racial justice, and peace.”


Marylander’s share of that 10% cut would be a collective taxpayer saving in this state for one year of an estimated $1.64 billion. That could buy: 22,145 clean energy jobs or 113,915 Monthly Relief Payments of $1,200 for 1 Year, or 18,379 Elementary School Teachers for 1 Year or 54,679 hospital stays for Covid 19 pts for 1 year https://www.nationalpriorities.org/interactive-data/trade-offs/?state=24&program=47. To prevent the pending tsunami of evictions once the moratorium is lifted on July 25, housing advocates say it will take $175 million, https://www.baltimoresun.com/coronavirus/bs-md-eviction-tsunami-20200702-dbuifbn7bbtrc5abkujcc3k7m-story.html

slightly more than 1/10th of Maryland’s cut of the $74 billion. There is no more reasonable source of funds.

CONTACT YOUR Senators and REPRESENTATIVE to support this amendment to reduce Pentagon funding by 10% that we might try through a newly found prism of equity, fund housing, education, and healthcare needs. It is time to rethink how we define security and how we spend our money.