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Trump budget proposal violates parity - threatens bipartisan priorities *Increasing defense spending at expense of non-defense spending promises to make us poorer, sicker, and less secure*

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Washington, D.C. – Today's release of the first details of President Donald Trump's budget plan is an unacceptable destruction of the parity principal that has been the foundation for bipartisan budget policies since 2011. While NDD United recognizes the importance of a strong, funded national defense program, to pay for increases in defense spending by slashing nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs will only make the country poorer, sicker, less educated, and less secure.

President Trump has proposed a \$54 billion increase in defense spending, at the expense of an equal cut (more than 10 percent) to nondefense discretionary spending, the budget portfolio that provides vital public programs from criminal justice, to food safety, workforce training, to scientific discovery and more. Even before this misguided proposal, the NDD budget is currently at an all-time low as a percentage of GDP, and further cuts will only damage if not destroy programs Americans rely on every day to improve their quality of life and wellbeing.

NDD Co-Chair Emily Holubowich said, "since the President wants to increase funding for such things as border security, homeland security, and veteran's health, all of which are within NDD, that will make cuts to biomedical research, education, environmental protection, workforce training, children's programs, and more that much worse."

Ben Corb, another NDD United Co-Chair, said, "This is just the opening salvo in what will be a lengthy struggle in Congress on budget issues. NDD United will aggressively fight these cuts in the final Fiscal Year 2017 omnibus bill, the FY 2018 Budget Resolution and individual FY 2018 appropriations bills."

Sheryl Cohen, NDD United co-Chair, added, "If cuts of this magnitude were to be enacted, our commitment to education and the many other important programs supported by non-defense discretionary spending that the public widely supports would be severely harmed. We look forward to working with Congress as these important budget issues are debated."

Final NDD United Founding Co-Chair Joel Packer said, "We are confident that Congress will reject these unprecedented cuts. We look forward to working on a bipartisan basis with supporters of these critical programs to protect these investments in our education, health, safety, and indeed, our future."

NDD United will be sending a letter signed by supporting groups calling on Congressional action to ensure budget priorities are met to ensure a federal budget that provides for the needs of all Americans.



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NDD (Non-Defense Discretionary) United is an alliance of thousands of national, state, and local organizations working to protect investments in core government functions that benefit all Americans.

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