

# U.S. Rep. Pocan: Floor statement on cutting Pentagon spending

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**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - Today, **U.S. Congressman Mark Pocan (WI-02)**, Co-Chair and co-founder of the Defense Spending Reduction Caucus spoke on the House Floor on his amendment to the FY2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would cut the Pentagon's budget by \$100 billion.

[Click here or the image to watch the full speech, and find the transcript of Rep. Pocan's remarks below.](#)



***Rep. Mark Pocan***

**June, 21 2022**

**Floor Remarks on NDAA Amendment  
Remarks as Delivered**

*I rise today in support of our amendment to reduce the Pentagon's budget.*

*First, let me thank Congresswoman Lee for your partnership on this issue, and thank you for securing our nation always by pursuing peace first. Thank you.*

*839.3 billion dollars - the amount of the defense spending authorized by this bill before we include anything of up to 650 amendments this week - is too much with too little accountability.*

*We already spend more on defense than China, India, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Japan, and South Korea combined.*

*It's more than double the amount of funding that the EPA, Health and Human Services, Departments of Education, Energy, Commerce, State, Housing & Urban Development, and Agriculture all receive - combined.*

*This bill also goes above and beyond what the Department of Defense asked for in its budget request submitted to Congress.*

*And yet the Department of Defense still can't pass an audit of the funding it receives - a requirement of virtually every other agency.*

*Let's stop rewarding the building of amphibious vehicles that sink, unready projects like the F-35 that still have hundreds and hundreds of recognized deficiencies that have not been addressed, and Ford Class Aircraft Carriers that have toilets that cost 400 [thousand] dollars in chemicals to flush when clogged.*

*Yes, we flush defense dollars down the toilet.*

*Let's fix this.*

*At some point, spending doesn't actually make you safer, it's security theater and contractor profiteering.*

*We need a more modern definition of defense - one that recognizes real national*

*security threats like COVID, cyber attacks, and climate change. But the current defense budget doesn't do that.*

*I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.*