Dear Senators and Representatives,

We are a diverse group of organizations focused on strengthening diplomacy, protecting migrants and refugees, preventing wars of choice, combating corruption, and promoting human rights, and together we represent millions of Americans. We write to urge you to stand up for democratic values in negotiations around the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act and refuse to provide over $730 billion in unrestrained Pentagon spending unless there are significant constraints on this administration’s harmful policies.

Over the course of his administration, Donald Trump has been on the brink of war with Iran, continued U.S. complicity in supporting atrocities committed by the Saudi/Emirati-led coalition in Yemen, illegally raided Pentagon funds for his hateful border wall project that harms migrants and asylum-seekers, banned transgender servicemembers from military service, developed new nuclear weapons while also broadening their potential uses in official U.S. policy, expanded use-of-force authorities - leading to a major increase in civilian casualties, and sought to lessen oversight of military-style firearms exports, among other abuses.

The House Democratic majority ensured that H.R. 2500 took a stand against those abuses. It includes smart, common-sense, and humane provisions on foreign policy and national security. For instance, H.R. 2500 guards against a Trump-led war of choice with Iran; ends U.S. weapons and security aid to the Saudi/Emirati-led coalition; bars any use of Pentagon dollars for a southern border “wall;” prevents discrimination against transgender servicemembers; bars the deployment of the new low-yield nuclear weapon; repeals the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq; bans new detainees at GTMO; requires DOD to exhaustively report on civilian casualties; prevents the administration from relaxing oversight of assault weapons exports; and includes protections from toxic PFAS chemicals, which contaminate groundwater and drinking water around hundreds of military installations across the country.

Now is a key time for continued moral leadership. The pressure will certainly be great to capitulate to the Administration and its supporters, passing a NDAA stripped of all these meaningful reforms,
protections, and constraints, but we will have your back if you stand strong. **We urge you to oppose any negotiated bill that does not include a minimum of core progressive priorities that were included in H.R 2500.** There is simply no reason to continue with business-as-usual with such a reckless, corrupt, and unlawful president. Any compromise on the NDAA must provide genuine checks on the president, or it is not worth passing into law.

Sincerely,

Action Corps  
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)  
Arms Control Association  
Avaaz  
Beyond the Bomb  
Campaign for America’s Future  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for International Policy  
CODEPINK  
Common Defense  
Council for a Livable World  
CREDO  
Demand Progress  
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries  
Foreign Policy for America  
Franciscan Action Network  
Freedom Forward  
Fuerza del Valle  
Global Exchange  
Hispanic Federation  
Humanitarian Border Solutions  
La Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)  
Main Street Alliance  
MoveOn  
National Iranian American Council Action  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Newtown Action Alliance  
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation  
Nuclear Watch New Mexico  
Open Society Policy Center  
Our Revolution  
Peace Action  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Public Citizen  
RGV Equal Voice Network  
Southern Border Communities Coalition  
Students for Yemen  
Survivors Empowered Action Fund  
Truman Project for National Security  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
United for Peace and Justice  
Win Without War  
Women’s Action for New Directions  
The United Methodist Church - General  
Board of Church and Society