

Resolution #3

Resolution in Support of Sensible Federal Government Priorities

WHEREAS the biggest threats to the people of the United States are not military but are

(1) the failure to provide living wage jobs, affordable health care, education and housing and necessary social services as human rights;

(2) the climate crisis, which is causing massive floods, severe droughts, heat domes, increasingly destructive storms, and health-threatening air quality, with disproportionate impact on frontline communities and people of color;

(3) the threat of nuclear war;

(4) systemic racism and gender discrimination.

WHEREAS the US Pentagon budget increased by an average of 5.7% per year from 2001 to 2022; and

WHEREAS the Federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour would be \$24.84 if it had increased at the same rate as the Pentagon budget, but it has increased by an average of only 1% per year since 2001; and

WHEREAS, the Pentagon consumes more than half of the Federal discretionary budget, and currently costs taxpayers \$877 billion per year; and

WHEREAS the US military expenses are higher than those of the next nine nations combined, and six of those are US allies; and

WHEREAS, the Pentagon has failed all five attempted audits and is unable to account for 61% of its \$3.5 trillion in assets; and

WHEREAS military corporations routinely gouge the public, overcharge the government and inflate their profits at taxpayer expense; and

WHEREAS the 750 or more overseas US bases do not make us more secure, but rather become flashpoints for conflict and possible war; and

WHEREAS the Pentagon is the planet's largest institutional fossil fuel user and emitter of greenhouse gasses; and

WHEREAS we could make substantial reductions to military spending without compromising national security; and

WHEREAS the funds saved should be redirected to combating the climate crisis, meeting urgent social priorities, and addressing other needs of working people, the poor and the disadvantaged; and

- WHEREAS the 2017 national AFL-CIO Convention resolved that “The AFL-CIO calls upon the president and Congress to bring the war dollars home and make our priority as a nation rebuilding the nation’s crumbling infrastructure, creating millions of living wage jobs and addressing human needs such as education, health care, housing, retirement security, and jobs”; and
- WHEREAS Veterans for Peace urges the labor movement to join in its work of reducing bloated Pentagon spending; and therefore be it
- RESOLVED, that American Federation of Teachers-Wisconsin supports legislation that significantly reduces the excessive Pentagon budget without cutting pay or benefits of those serving in the US military; one such bill is HR 1134, the People Over the Pentagon Act, introduced by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI), which would reduce the Pentagon budget by \$100 billion; and be it also
- RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the Representatives and Senators within the jurisdiction covered by American Federation of Teachers-Wisconsin with a request that they co-sponsor HR 1134 and companion legislation in the Senate; and be it finally
- RESOLVED, that American Federation of Teachers-Wisconsin will inform our members of this resolution so that they may understand the importance of having our tax dollars reflect our true priorities and communicate to their Congressional Representative and Senators their support for HR 1134; and Resolved, that American Federation of Teachers-Wisconsin will urge the labor bodies with which it is affiliated to pass similar resolutions in support of sensible priorities.

Submitted by: Barb Smith, Local 4848

<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended
<input type="checkbox"/> Defeated