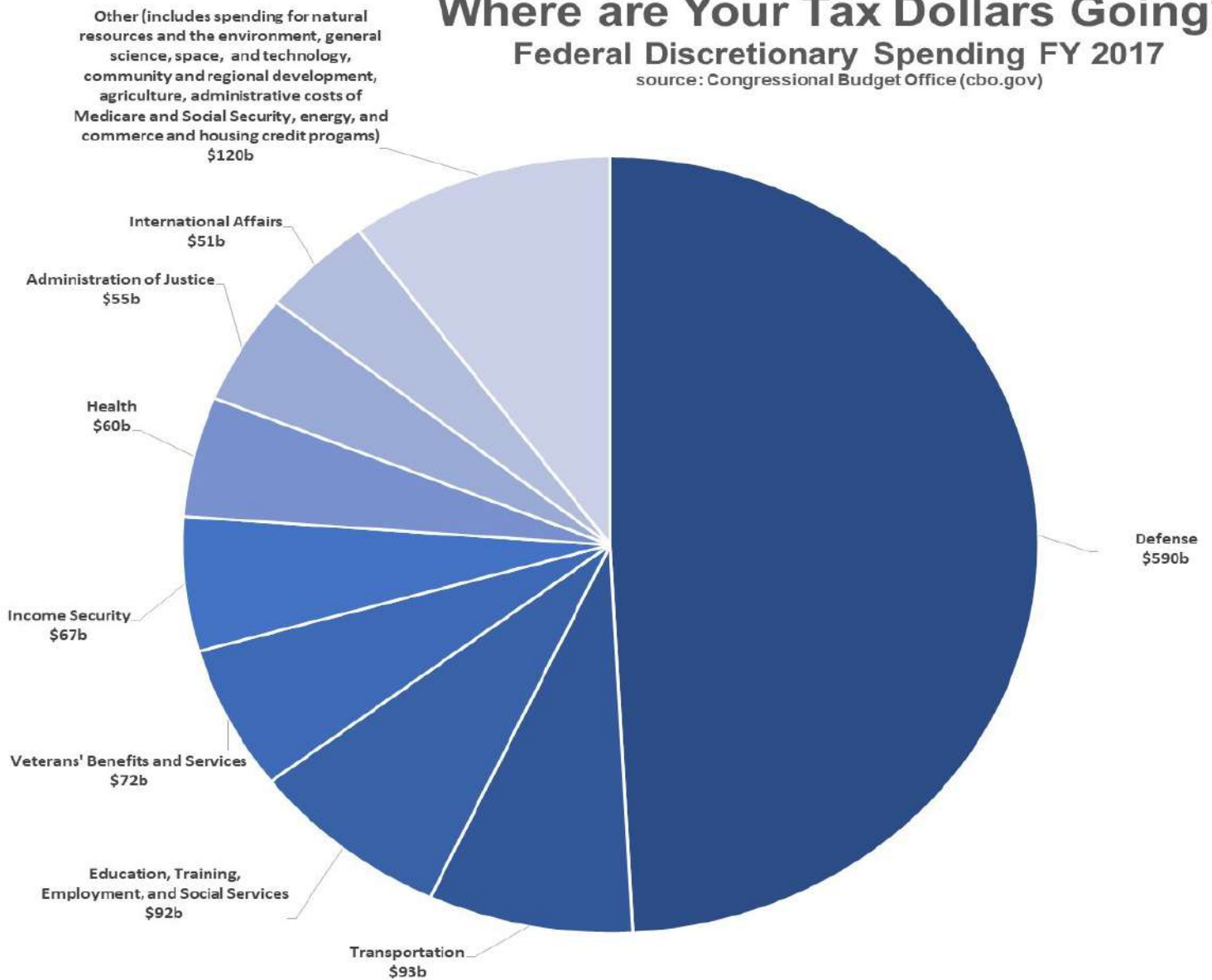


Where are Your Tax Dollars Going?

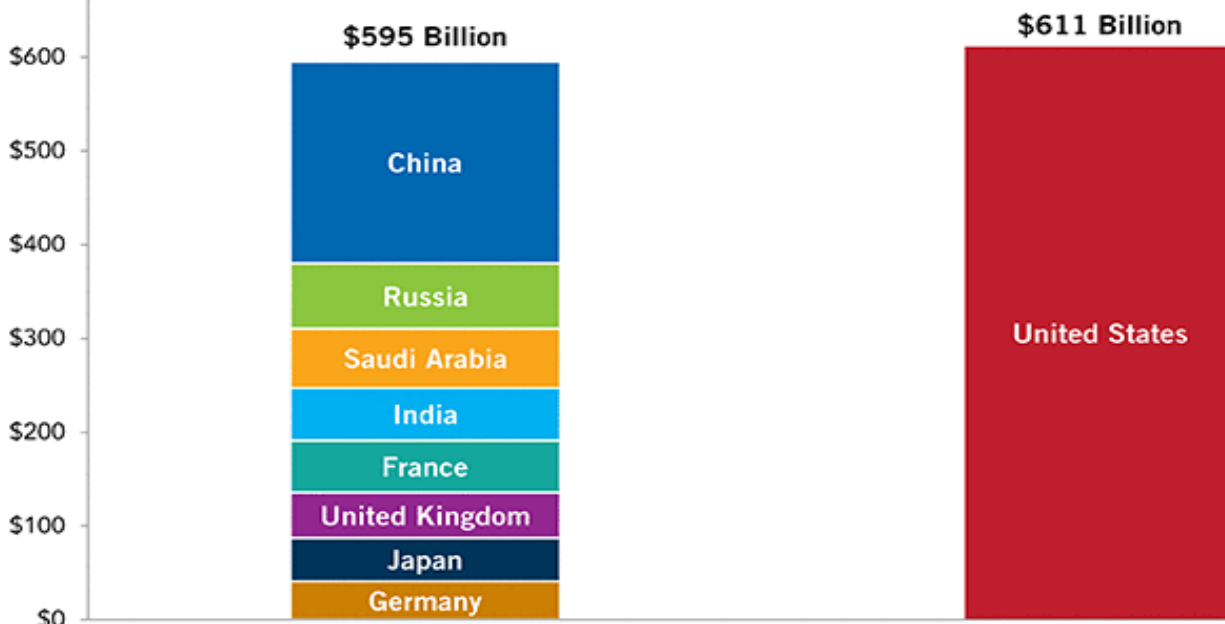
Federal Discretionary Spending FY 2017

source: Congressional Budget Office (cbo.gov)



DEFENSE SPENDING (BILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

source: Peter G. Peterson Foundation, data for FY 2016



If our federal discretionary spending does not reflect your priorities, you can do the following:

- **Call your US Representative and Senators** and urge them to cut the Pentagon budget. Call the Congressional Switchboard at 202-224-3121 to be connected to them. You can find out who your two US Senators are at senate.gov, and who your US Representative is at house.gov. Use this script:

Hello, this is (your name) from (city, zip code) calling. I am calling to urge Representative/Senator (their last name) to vote to reduce the federal spending that goes to the Pentagon, and instead prioritize urgent domestic needs such as job creation, education, infrastructure, and the environment. Please let me know what Rep./Sen. (their last name) does on this important issue of where my tax dollars are spent.

- **Utilize the media**—letters to the editor, radio talk shows, public access television, social media—to demand cuts to the bloated Pentagon budget.
- **Make copies of this flyer** and distribute it to friends and family.

What's the best way to cut the budget deficit? Here are the five biggest myths.

Myth #1: Just stop sending aid to foreign countries.

Fact: The United States only budgeted \$1.9 billion on foreign aid for FY 2019. Cutting that wouldn't do much to reduce the \$984 billion budget deficit.

Myth #2: Defense spending should be increased, even if other programs must be cut.

Fact: Total U.S. military spending for FY 2019 is \$886 billion.

It includes more than the Department of Defense budget of \$597.1 billion. You must also count the \$88.9 billion which pays for the War on Terror, including military operations in Iraq, Syria, and the War in Afghanistan. There are five other agencies that support defense that should also be included. They are the FBI and Cybersecurity (in the Justice Department budget), the National Nuclear Security Administration (in the Energy Department budget), Homeland Security, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the State Department. They add \$181.3 billion to the base budget. They also add \$101 billion to the emergency fund. This huge expense must be reduced if the deficit is to be cut in any meaningful way.

Myth #3: If we reduce military spending, the world will think we are weak.

Fact: The U.S. military budget is greater than those of the next 10 largest spenders combined.

The second biggest spender, China, only spent \$216 billion. Russia spent \$84.5 billion. Our greatest ally, the UK, spent \$60.5 billion. That's less than 10 percent of what the United States did. Many of our allies are enjoying the benefits of a safer world at our expense. President Trump has asked them to pay more, but continues to increase defense spending.

Myth #4: Military spending creates jobs.

Fact: Defense spending is not the best way to create jobs. A UMass-Amherst study found that \$1 billion in military spending created 8,555 jobs. The same amount spent on public transit created 19,795 construction jobs. Spending on public works is the most cost-effective unemployment solution.

Myth #5: The best way to balance the budget is to cut entitlement spending.

Fact: Entitlement programs, such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and welfare programs are the biggest portions of the budget. Medicare and Medicaid are growing thanks to higher health care costs. But they were created by Acts of Congress. They can't be cut without another Act of Congress. That means a majority of Congress would have to agree to change the laws that enabled them. That won't happen, because it would be political suicide. Current Social Security and Medicare recipients would vote those Congressmen out of office at the next election.