



Trump budget needs changes

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Soon Congress will be passing a budget. Prosperity will come as funding goes to health care, education, and infrastructure, instead of increasing military expenditures. Here's how they could reduce military spending.

The Pentagon is the only federal department that does not have an annual audit. An audit would clearly point out misuse of funds.

Start with President Donald Trump's budget request of \$575 billion for the Defense Department rather than the House request for \$600 billion.

\$125 billion can be saved over five years by trimming excess bureaucracy (according to the Defense Business Board, a Pentagon advisory panel.)

\$33.6 billion could be saved the Pentagon Inspector General says, if the department stopped ignoring hundreds of recommendations.

\$20 billion annually could be saved, by cutting 15 percent of the 600,000 private contractors doing duplicate work.

\$1 trillion dollars over the next 10 years could be saved by focusing only on America's core interests and scaling back global ambitions, according to Ben Friedman of the Cato Institute.

Homeland Security expanded since 9/11 to 240,000 employees. The DHS inspector general reports misspending \$1 billion.

Military aid (armament and training programs) in 140 countries costs \$18 billion a year.

\$70 billion a year is spent on 16 separate intelligence agencies; some could be combined.

\$100 billion a year is needed to service the interest on the debt created by these expenditures.

Money is available. Let's ask Congress to focus on education, health care and infrastructure.