

Advocacy Teams



Legislative Ask for July 2024

Urge Congress to Rein in Wasteful Pentagon Wish Lists

Our campaign to rein in wasteful Pentagon spending reached a crucial point in late June with the House vote on Amendment 72 to the FY25 Annual Defense Appropriations bill (H.R. 8774), which aimed to defund the Unfunded Priorities Lists (UPLs). Even though the amendment did not pass, your advocacy supported 161 Representatives (including 32 Republicans) to vote yes, and the vote highlighted the urgency of our campaign.

We have a strategic opportunity in July. With every representative now on the record on UPLs ([see voting list here](#)), we have a hook to continue the conversation. If your member supported the amendment, email the staffer to thank them and have each member of your team call the office to say thank you. **Remember, "thank you" are some of the most important words in advocacy!** If they opposed it, request a meeting to ask why they voted no and urge them to co-sponsor H.R. 4740, the Streamline the Pentagon Budgeting Act, which does not go as far as the amendment. It makes UPLs optional rather than defunding them.

Publishing a letter to the editor is another effective tactic to raise public awareness about wasteful Pentagon spending. Highlight your Representative's vote on Amendment 72 or advocate for support of H.R. 4740, spotlighting a local unfunded priority that deserves federal funding, using this calculator tool from the [National Priorities Project](#). Also take a look at [these sample LTEs](#) written by Hajar Hammado.

Now that all Representatives have cast a vote on the UPLs and election season is kicking off in earnest, our voices matter now more than ever. It is critical that we capitalize on this moment to urge Congress to curb wasteful Pentagon spending by co-sponsoring H.R. 4740, the Streamline the Pentagon Budgeting Act.

Read more about our ask here: fcn.org/teamtoolkit



Actions to Take in July



Email Check-in with Staffers

Touch base with your member on the amendment vote: Thanking them OR asking to discuss their boss's nay vote.



Submit LTEs to a local paper

Publish an LTE urging your representative to co-sponsor H.R. 4740.