

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY MARYLAND**

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By: Councilmember Ervin, etc

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**SUBJECT:** Resolution Supporting Federal Budget Reprioritization

**Background**

1. United States military spending is higher than it has been since World War II. Since 1998, the Pentagon budget will have more than doubled (in constant dollars) by the end of 2011.<sup>i</sup>
2. Both progressive and conservative think tanks and leaders have recently put forth proposals for specific, sustainable cuts to the military budget. Significant cuts in military spending can be made without adversely affecting America's security and without affecting pay and benefits for servicemen and women and veterans, health care for servicemen and women and veterans, or protective gear for active duty personnel.
3. The Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration operate two of the nation's largest health care systems and provide care to approximately 9.6 million active duty military members and six million veterans. However the health and mental health needs for members of our armed forces continue to be underfunded.
4. While military spending has been extraordinary during the past decade, huge cuts have been made at the federal, state, and local levels to domestic spending, including appropriations for Maryland and Montgomery County.
5. The economic and financial situation in the state of Maryland has led to reductions in revenues from the state to Montgomery County. These reductions impact funding for education, environmental programs, health care, safety net services, public safety, and transportation projects.
6. The people of Montgomery County will pay or become indebted for approximately \$2.4 billion per year of their limited financial resources for Pentagon spending in fiscal year 2012.<sup>ii</sup>

i. Project on Defense Alternatives, *Trillions to Burn*,  
<http://www.comw.org/pda/1002BudgetSurge.html>

ii. National Priorities Project, Trade-Offs: <http://nationalpriorities.org/en/tools/tradeoffs/state/MD/county/montgomery->

7. State funding for local health departments has decreased by approximately \$26.4 million since 2007, one of many significant budget reductions that adversely impact Montgomery County and its residents. The County's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is responsible for the delivery of public health and human services that address the basic and critical needs of the County's most vulnerable children, adults, and seniors. Funding for DHHS provides food, shelter, clothing and personal care to those in need and provides health care assistance for families. Reduced appropriations for DHHS translate into more health issues that go untreated and a less healthy community.
8. Given the current economic crisis, job creation is essential, in both the private and public sectors; funds are needed to rebuild deteriorating infrastructure; and investments must be made in developing new technologies to create a sustainable future.
9. A different military strategy and an end to the wars abroad would free up hundreds of billions of dollars. This revenue is necessary to support the nation, the state, and all local governments.

### **Action**

*The County Council for Montgomery County Maryland approves the following resolution:*

The County Council urges the United States Congress to make major reductions in the Pentagon budget, in a manner that does not harm the safety or lives of our troops, with the savings invested in state and local needs so that Montgomery County and other counties in Maryland can repair their deteriorating infrastructure, reverse budget cuts to education, health care, and other needs, and otherwise improve the welfare of their residents.

This Resolution will be sent to the Maryland delegation to the United States Congress, the Governor of Maryland, and the Montgomery County delegation of the Maryland General Assembly; and the President of the United States.

*This is a correct copy of Council action.*

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Linda Lauer, Clerk of the Council



