

Press Release

\$1.5 trillion military budget? No way, says Congressional Candidate Ryan Kelly

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President Trump's proposed gargantuan \$1.5 trillion military budget for fiscal year 2027 has evoked a strong negative reaction from Ryan Kelly, Independent congressional candidate in New Jersey's 3rd District. Kelly has joined several other congressional candidates across the country in supporting the Move the Money campaign.

"I believe that our federal budget should reflect the needs of the people we represent", Kelly stated in response to the Move the Money campaign of the U.S. Peace Council, "For families in New Jersey's Third District redirecting even a portion of those resources could make a meaningful difference: lowering health care costs, expanding access to affordable housing, investing in education and student debt relief, strengthening our infrastructure, and help working families struggling with the cost of living."

If elected, Kelly pledges to be among the voices in public office to call for significant diversion of funds from the bloated military budget to meet human needs among his constituents.

Several current legislators also clearly see the dire need to shift federal funding and priorities from the Pentagon to the People. The Defense Spending Reduction Caucus identified "Donald Trump's draconian proposal" to raise the military budget to \$1.5 trillion as perhaps "the most egregious waste of taxpayer dollars we have ever seen". In June 2026, Senator Markey of Massachusetts introduced the Slash the Pentagon Act (S. 4799) calling for a 50% reduction in military spending. In February 2026, Rep. Pocan of Wisconsin along with 22 co-sponsors introduced the Audit the Pentagon Act (H.R. 7555) in response to the Pentagon's failure to register a clean audit for eight consecutive years.

All these legislative initiatives, progressive stances by candidates, and the Move the Money campaign of the U.S. Peace Council heed the prophetic warning of Rev. Martin Luther King: "A nation that, year after year, continues to spend more on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."