



Catholic Social Ministry Gathering 2020

“Bearing Witness: Life and Justice for All”

Policy Webinar

January 15, 2020



Facts on Firearm Deaths

- Approximately 40,000 people die in firearm-related deaths each year.
 - About the same number of deaths as those who die each year from breast cancer or car accidents.
- About 1/3 of firearm-related deaths are homicides; 2/3 are suicides.



Universal Background Checks

- Federal law requires background checks when purchasing firearms from a licensed dealer, but not at a gun show, certain online purchases, or private sales. Some states require background checks in these instances, but many do not.
- Research shows that closing the background check loopholes will reduce gun trafficking.
- Broad bipartisan support for universal background checks: 93% of Democrats and 82% of Republicans according to the Pew Survey.



Extreme Risk Protection Orders (“ERPOs”)

- Extreme Risk Protections Orders, sometimes called “red flag” laws, allow family members or law enforcement to petition a judge for an order to remove firearms temporarily from someone’s possession when that person is a threat to themselves or others.
- Research shows ERPOs decrease the gun suicide rate. For every 10-20 ERPOs issued, one life is saved. Another study found ERPO laws contribute to a 7.5% reduction in gun-related suicide.
- Suicide attempts with a gun result in death about 90% of the time; the overwhelming majority of people who attempt by other means survive.
- 70% of Republicans and 85% of Democrats support family-initiated ERPOs; 66% of Republicans and 78% of Democrats support police-initiated ERPOs.



Gun Violence: Learn More

- USCCB Backgrounder: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/criminal-justice-restorative-justice/backgrounder-on-gun-violence.cfm>
- “Responses to the Plague of Gun Violence,” Bishop Frank J. Dewane’s address to the Bishops’ General Assembly:
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/violence/remarks-bishop-dewane-responses-to-the-plague-of-gun-violence-2019-11-11.cfm>



Extend New START

- US and Russia hold 90% of world's nuclear weapons
- New START now limits number of nuclear warheads and allows for inspections of each other's nuclear facilities and data exchange
- If New START expires in February 2021, no limits on US and Russian nuclear arsenals for first time since 1972 and lack of transparency that can lead to instability and risk of nuclear “accidents”
- Extending New START is in US national security interest
- Urge bipartisan support for H.R. 2529 and S. 2394 that extend New START as a way to reduce nuclear threat

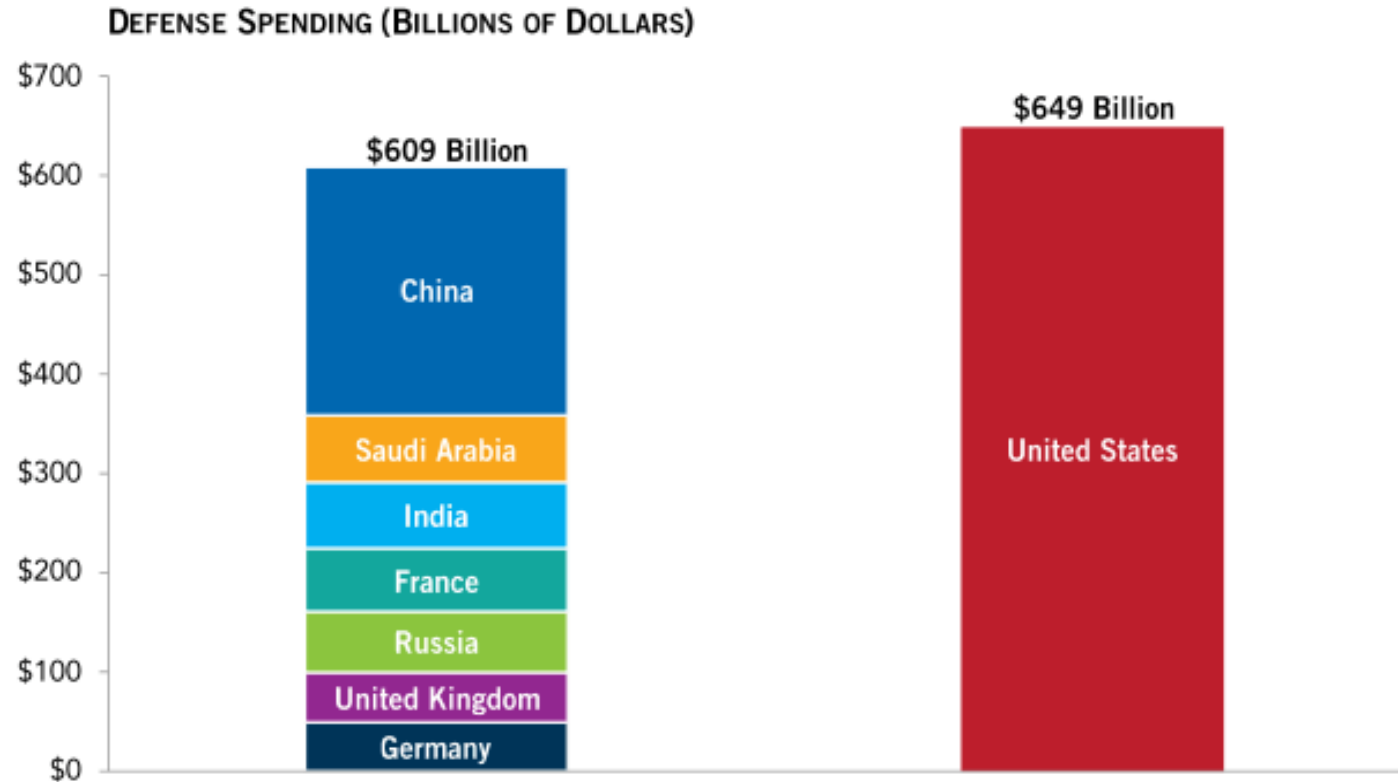


Less Funding for Arms Race

- Administration wants to expand nuclear arsenal so costs estimated at \$500 billion over next 10 years
- Overall US defense spending has steadily increased
 - \$750 billion authorized for FY2020 – 15% increase over FY 2019
- US spends more on defense/military than the combined total of next 8-9 countries (including China, Russia, France, Germany, UK, Saudi Arabia, India)



The United States spends more on defense than the next seven countries combined



SOURCE: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, *SIPRI Military Expenditure Database*, April 2019.

NOTES: Figures are in U.S. dollars, converted from local currencies using market exchange rates. Data for the United States are for fiscal year 2018, which ran from October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018. Data for the other countries are for calendar year 2018.

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New START “Ask”

- Urge Congress to support H.R. 2529 and S. 2394 that extend New START as a way to:
 - advance nuclear non-proliferation and
 - avoid a nuclear arms race



International Asks

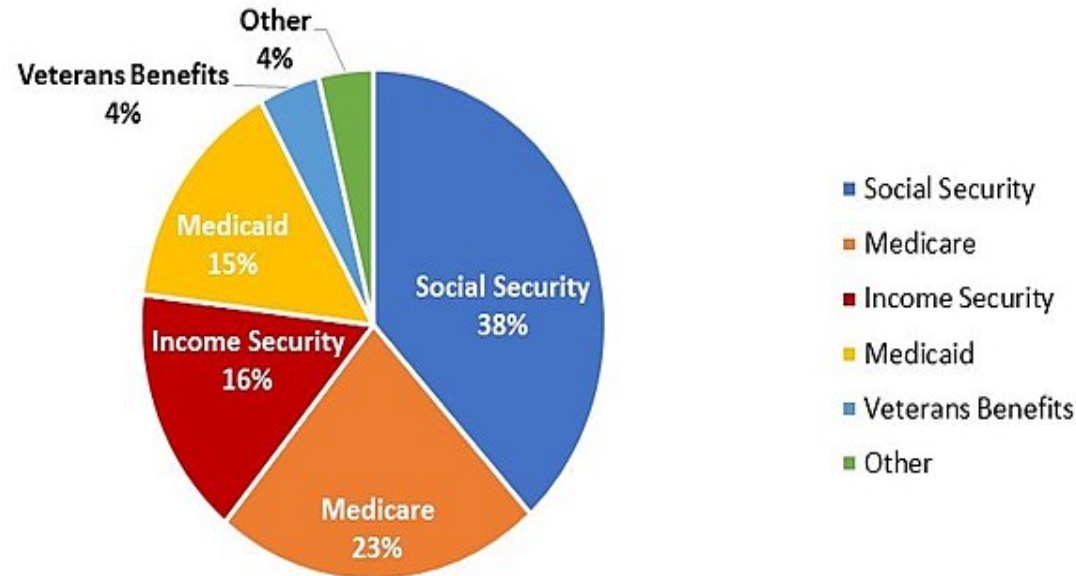
- Preserve funding for fiscal year 2021 to at least fiscal year 2020 approved levels for **poverty-reducing development and humanitarian programs**.
- We urge Congress to ensure any policy realignment prioritizes assistance to the people and communities most in need; maintains U.S. global leadership; and encourages pro-poor economic growth.



U.S. Federal Spending: FY 2019

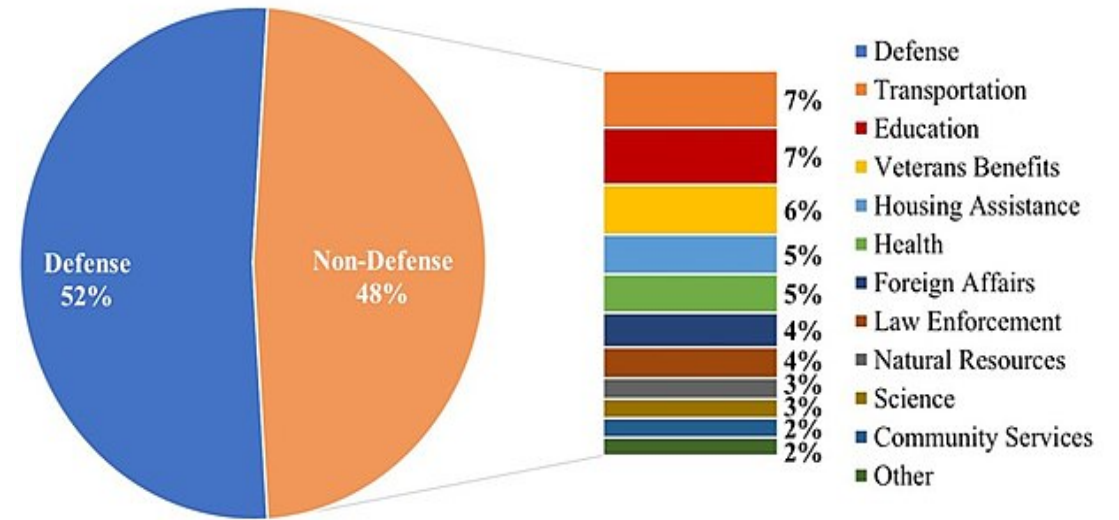
Congressional Budget Office

2019 Mandatory Spending Breakdown (% of Total)



Total Mandatory: \$2,739 Billion

2019 Discretionary Spending Breakdown (% of Total)



Total Discretionary: \$1,305 Billion



International Poverty-Reducing Development and Humanitarian Accounts



Appropriations Accounts (\$ in thousands) (OCO included)	FY 19 Enacted	FY 20 Enacted	USCCB/CRS FY 21 Request
State, Foreign Operations (SFOPs)	22,217,616	22,832,193	23,869,251
Maternal and Child Health (including GAVI)	835,000	851,000	851,000
Nutrition	145,000	150,000	150,000
Vulnerable Children (orphans and displaced children)	24,000	25,000	30,000
HIV/AIDS (USAID)	330,000	330,000	330,000
Malaria	755,000	770,000	770,000
Tuberculosis	302,000	310,000	310,000
Neglected Tropical Diseases	102,500	102,500	102,500
Global Health Security	100,000	100,000	100,000
PEPFAR (including Global Fund)	5,720,000	5,930,000	5,930,000
Development Assistance (including Water, Basic Ed)	3,000,000	3,400,000	3,500,000
International Disaster Assistance	4,385,312	4,395,362	4,520,000
Migration and Refugee Assistance	3,432,000	3,432,000	3,604,000
Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance	1,000	100	1,000
Complex Crises Fund	30,000	30,000	30,000
Millennium Challenge Account	905,000	905,000	905,000
Atrocities Prevention Board (ESF & INCLE)	5,500	5,500	5,750
Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities	1,551,000	1,526,383	1,660,653
Peacekeeping Operations	488,670	457,348	457,348
Green Climate Fund (Treasury)	0	0	500,000
U.S. Institute of Peace	38,634	45,000	45,000
Anti-Trafficking in Persons (DA, ESF, AEECA, INCLE)	67,000	67,000	67,000
Agricultural (Ag)	1,926,255	1,945,000	2,235,000
Title II Food for Peace	1,716,000	1,725,000	2,000,000
McGovern-Dole	210,255	220,000	235,000
Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS)	86,125	96,000	96,000
Bureau of International Labor Affairs (DOL/ILAB)	86,125	96,000	96,000
COMBINED TOTAL	24,229,996	24,873,193	26,200,251



International Asks

- Preserve funding for fiscal year 2021 to at least fiscal year 2020 proposed levels for **poverty-reducing development and humanitarian programs.**
- Ensure that international assistance retains its focus on reducing poverty in the poorest and most conflict prone countries of the world.



Near-Term Outlook for Dreamers and DACA

On Nov. 12, 2019 the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) heard oral arguments on the legality of the Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and its attempted rescission by the Administration.

SCOTUS will likely issue a decision in Spring 2020 and two likely scenarios exist:

- If Scotus terminates the DACA program there will be pressure on the Senate before their summer recess to pass legislation to prevent DACA recipients from facing deportation because the House has already passed H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act, which the USCCB endorsed.
- If SCOTUS upholds DACA, we could see a renewed effort by the Administration to implement a proper regulation ending DACA that likely published in Summer 2020.



Background: The Stakes are High

- Approximately 800,000 young people – many of whom are Catholic – have qualified and enrolled in the DACA program.
- With DACA, these individuals have been able to come out of the shadows to work and attend school legally and not fear separation from their families due to deportation.
- Terminating of DACA would make it difficult to quickly replace such protections for all current 690, 000 DACA holders via legislation or other means.



S. 874, the Dream Act of 2019

- USCCB supports S. 874, the Dream Act of 2019.
- Is a bi-partisan bill and currently has five co-sponsors: Durbin D-IL, Murkowski R-AK, Schumer D-NY, Gardner R-CO, Cortez-Masto D-NV.
- Most Rev. Joe S. Vásquez, Former Chairman, USCCB Committee on Migration:
“My brother bishops and I believe in protecting the dignity of every human being, particularly that of our children. The Catholic Bishops have long supported these immigrant youth and their families who are contributors to our economy, academic standouts in our universities, and leaders in our parishes. These youth have grown up in our country, some even choosing to put their lives on the line to serve in our armed forces. They truly exemplify the extraordinary contributions that immigrants can provide to our nation. It is both our moral duty and, in our nation’s best interest to protect these youth and allow them to reach their God-given potential.”



Why Support the Dream Act?

- DACA recipients (sometimes called Dreamers) are undocumented individuals who were brought to the U.S. as children by their parents. They grew up in the U.S. and many of them remember little, if anything, about where they were born. They are American in everything but immigration status.
- DACA recipients are among the most “extremely vetted” immigrants in the U.S. The government knows they have not previously committed any felonies, knows where they live and work, how much they pay in taxes, and know if they leave the country and return.
- If SCOTUS ends the DACA program this year and there is no legislation that has passed Congress, DACA youth will face an uncertain future and maybe even deportation and family separation.
- The USCCB has long supported Dreamers, and we continue to urge Congress to work with all deliberate speed towards a bipartisan legislative solution that includes a path to citizenship for these youth.
- Let’s remember and live by the teaching in Leviticus 19:34:
The foreigner living with you must be treated as one of your native born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.



- QUESTIONS?