

Dear Representative,

During consideration of H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022, Taxpayers for Common Sense has a series of vote recommendations.

Voting **AYE** on the following amendments is a vote for fiscally conservative values and greater oversight of how the Pentagon spends our federal tax dollars:

- Amendment #39 (*originally numbered 48*) by Rep. Schrader (D-OR): This provision would repeal some of the current statutory requirements for combatant commands and other parts of the Department of Defense (DoD) to submit unfunded priorities lists to Congress each year. TCS has a [lengthy record](#) criticizing this ‘wish list’ practice as wasteful. Rep. Schrader’s amendment would retain only the unfunded priorities list for service branches and the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM).
- Amendment #41 (*originally numbered 602*) by Reps. Lee (D-CA), Pocan (D-WI), and Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY): This amendment would strike the increase the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) recently approved to the defense budget under H.R. 4350, instead returning the defense topline to amounts requested by the Biden Administration. We believe the Biden Administration topline request for the Pentagon is [more than big enough](#). This amendment would save taxpayers tens of billions of dollars.
- Amendment #63 (*originally numbered 261*) by Rep. Blumenauer (D-OR) and Rep. Garamendi (D-CA): This amendment would require the Pentagon to contract with a federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) to conduct a study of several aspects of the life extension program for the W80-4 nuclear warhead. Principal among the issues to be studied is the cost of the program, which has unexpectedly increased. Future costs and schedule changes are vital pieces of information for the entire Congress to have before making further decisions related to this program.
- Amendment #112 (*originally numbered 684*) by Rep. Comer (R-KY): This amendment would have the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) study any potential taxpayer waste from the recent U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, including if any taxpayer dollars or taxpayer-funded military equipment ended up in the hands of the Taliban or corrupt Afghan government officials.
- Amendment #207 (*originally numbered 622*) by Reps. Jayapal (D-WA) and Johnson (D-GA): Commissions a Defense Department report on estimated savings to come from the drawdown from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. The more Congress and the public know about these savings, the better for transparency of how your taxpayer dollars are being used.
- Amendment #344 (*originally numbered 630*) by Reps. Porter (D-CA) and Speier (D-CA): This is a good government and transparency provision to ensure the public has access to a full list of reports DoD has delivered to Congress. These reports are funded by taxpayers, and taxpayers have a right to know the timing, nature, and contents of the unclassified reports DoD is sharing with Congress.
- Amendment #379 (*originally numbered #46*) by Rep. Schrader (D-OR): This provision would require the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office (GAO) to study how Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account funds were obligated and spent in fiscal year (FY) 2010 –

the peak of OCO spending during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq – and FY 2019. At TCS we're delighted the [FY22 budget](#) included no request for OCO funding. But it is important to learn exactly how the hundreds of billions of dollars appropriated to OCO in the last decade and a half were actually spent. Transparency in this regard will allow Congress to guard against the misuse of any "off budget" slush funds that emerge in the future. Forewarned is forearmed.

Oversight and fiscally conservative values are enormously important when it comes to the largest portion of the federal discretionary budget. These amendments will advance those values.

Sincerely,

Wendy J. Jordan
Senior Policy Analyst
Taxpayers for Common Sense