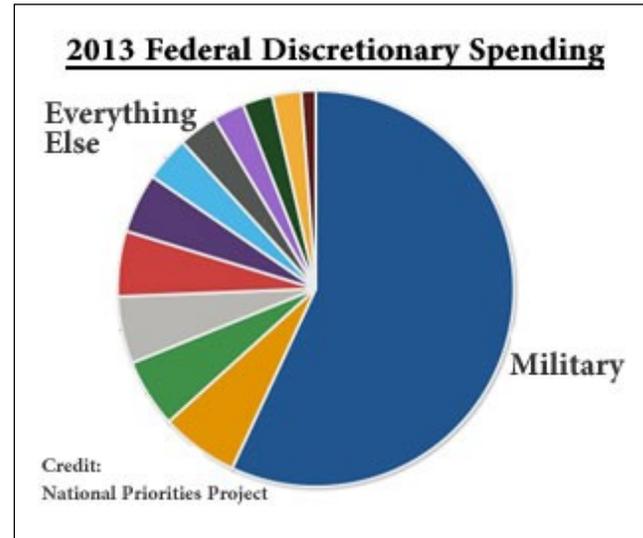


FEDERAL BUDGET “SEQUESTRATION”

Last year's federal budget confrontation and debacle are likely to radically distort next fiscal year's budget AFTER November's election. Both parties in Congress and Obama are likely to protect the Pentagon from mandatory cuts and likely to slash domestic budgets instead. We must pressure Congress and Obama NOW to cut the military budget and protect the domestic budget.

1. During this election campaign season hardly any candidates in either big party talk about how the Pentagon consumes more than its share of the federal budget.
2. In 2011 Congress deadlocked about the federal budget and created a small Super Committee to produce a compromise, with the threat that if the Super Committee failed, mandatory across-the-board cuts (“sequestering”) would occur in all federal budgets, both military and domestic alike.
3. The Super Committee failed, so now the “sequestration” is set to go into place.
4. But many members of Congress in both parties are warning that the US's “national security” would suffer if the Pentagon budget were cut, even though it would still be much bigger than just a few years ago.
5. Instead, the politicians are implying that they will cut domestic spending even deeper in order to protect the bloated Pentagon budget.
6. Of course, Congress set this decision deadline **AFTER** the November 6 election, when it's too late for voters to punish them.
7. Therefore, the “lame duck” Congress is likely to protect the military budget and cut domestic programs instead.
8. If we are to **PREVENT THIS DISASTER**, we must pressure candidates for Congress and the Presidency **NOW, BEFORE the election.**
9. They will listen to us now before the election while we still have some clout. **NOW is the time to demand a humane federal budget!**



This pie chart came from the National Priorities Project. See www.nationalpriorities.org for a lot of practical information about the federal budget.

The Olympia FOR website's “Bring Our Billion\$ Home” page offers links to several informational resources and recent articles on this subject. Visit www.olympiafor.org and click on “**Bring Our Billion\$ Home Campaign.**”

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) has worked for decades from an ethically principled perspective on federal government issues, including budget priorities. See their information at www.fcnl.org/issues/budget.

FCNL's federal budget page includes this information about Congress passing a “continuing resolution” to defer the hard budget decisions: www.fcnl.org/issues/budget/congress_continues_the_story_with_a_continuing_resolution