



**Veterans For Peace**  
**Chapter 23, Rochester, New York**

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Rochester, New York 14620-3131  
<https://www.veteransforpeacechapter23.org/>

June 10, 2020

Senator Charles E. Schumer  
Kenneth B. Keating Federal Office Building  
100 State Street, Room 3040  
Rochester, NY 14614

Dear Senator Schumer:

In this period of multiple crises facing our nation, it is easy to be caught up in the turmoil engulfing the business of governing. At the same time, we know the business of government is continuing and legislation is being introduced, and acted upon, in Congress. This letter is to request a response to a prior meeting with your staff, and add additional concerns that have arisen in the last month, regarding demands to reallocate portions of our bloated national defense budget.

It has been over a month since 20 fine Peace and Justice voices from New York City, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Ithaca, Binghamton, Albany, Hudson Valley, Yonkers, Staten Island, and Queens spoke with Eric Altamura, your military aide on May 8, 2020. Our focus was basic—what major reductions in the 2021 United States military budget will Senator Schumer propose?

It is not hyperbole to note that we have found our real enemies and they are not people in foreign lands. Our real and present dangers are pandemic, environmental and climate emergencies, racism, poverty, and the militarization of police forces. We demand you act in the name of the people of New York State, the people of the United States, and our sisters and brothers everywhere.

Our demand is for you to take moral action, legal action, honest action, courageous action and press your colleagues on the Senate Defense Authorization Committee to stand tall and make vast redistributions of military funding to real needs.

Our further demand to you is to answer us in this lockdown of Senate doors and robotype phone answers. You need to speak to us soon. There are just days to your decision. Please do what the New York State people want and what you must also want. Make major redistributions from military funding to human needs in shaping the National Defense Authorization Act.

Additionally, we are calling for repeal of the 1033 Program, and demand legislation restricting the use of force by police. Don't put military weapons in the hands of police.

Yours in Peace,

Rev. James L. Swarts  
President, Veterans For Peace,  
Chapter 23, Rochester, NY  
On behalf of the Chapter 23 Executive Committee

Respectfully submitted in conjunction with:  
Veterans for Peace Chapters in Binghamton, New York City, Hudson (Peekskill), Albany, and Rochester, New York; and.  
Peace Action of NYC,  
Code Pink,  
Catholic Worker of Ithaca NY,  
Western NY Peace Center,  
St Francis of Assisi Parish, Binghamton, NY,  
Syracuse Peace Council.