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*WWFOR seeks to replace violence, war, racism and economic injustice with nonviolence, equality, peace and justice. It links and strengthens FOR members and chapters throughout Western Washington in promoting activities consistent with the national FOR statement of purpose. WWFOR helps members and chapters accomplish together what we could not accomplish alone.*

## WWFOR 2023 SPRING ASSEMBLY

**TIME: Saturday May 6, 2023 (updated) 8:45 am to 12:30 pm Pacific time**

**“EVOLVING NONVIOLENCE ” on ZOOM (closed captions option)**

**watch the WWFOR website [wwfor.org](http://wwfor.org) for updates, registration and Zoom link**

**Some of the Mike Yarrow Peace Fellows will talk about their projects**

**Music with Tom Rawson**

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### The Second Bill of Rights

by John M Repp

After seeing a film in Fremont that mentioned the Second Bill of Rights , Mike Yarrow organized a leafleting at the next showing to explain more about the idea. Also called the “economic bill of rights”, the idea was proposed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in his 1944 State of the Union speech. FDR intended to put these rights into law rather than amend the Constitution. The speech, given towards the end of World War II, pointed out that the sacrifices the American people were undergoing due to the war were recognized and FDR wanted a new bill of rights to reward the people for their sacrifice.

FDR said that the first bill of rights were political rights and were put into the Constitution as the first ten amendments. America learned after the Great Depression that people can have political freedom but not have real freedom. **If a citizen’s material needs are not met, they cannot be free.**

FDR died just a few months after this speech, just before the end of World War II. His vision for a peaceful and prosperous postwar age for all did not come true. Why is worth a discussion. A short answer is: [The members of the Congress from the Jim Crow South decided that black Americans should not have what FDR had promised, even though a million blacks from the USA served in the war.](#)

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See next page for direct quotes of FDR’s speech.

### SEATTLE, TACOMA, OLYMPIA FOR PROGRAM MEETING: ABOLISHING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Sun March 19; 6:30 – 8 pm, by Zoom

Three Chapters of Fellowship of Reconciliation, Seattle, Tacoma, and Olympia, jointly present a program meeting.

Tom Rogers will speak on Nuclear Weapons: From Opposition to Abolition

See website: [wwfor.org](http://wwfor.org) for more information and Zoom link

## WHAT WE NEED NOW

**A Second Bill of Rights** <https://www.fdrlibrary.org/address-text>

**Direct Quotes follow:** From the January 11, 1944 State of the Union speech by Franklin Delano Roosevelt:

“It is our duty now to begin to lay the plans and determine the strategy for the winning of a lasting peace and the establishment of an American [standard of living](#) higher than ever before known. We cannot be content, no matter how high that general standard of living may be, if some fraction of our people—whether it be one-third or one-fifth or one-tenth—is ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed, and insecure.

This Republic had its beginning, and grew to its present strength, under the protection of certain inalienable political rights—among them the right of free speech, free press, free worship, trial by jury, freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures. They were our rights to life and liberty.

As our nation has grown in size and stature, however—as our industrial economy expanded—these political rights proved inadequate to assure us equality in the pursuit of happiness.

We have come to a clear realization of the fact that true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. "Necessitous men are not free men."<sup>18</sup> People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made.

In our day these economic truths have become accepted as self-evident. We have accepted, so to speak, a second Bill of Rights under which a new basis of security and prosperity can be established for all—regardless of station, race, or creed.

Among these are:

The [right to a useful and remunerative job](#) in the industries or shops or farms or mines of the nation;

The right to [earn enough](#) to provide adequate food and clothing and recreation;

The right of every farmer to raise and sell his products at a return which will give him and his family a decent living;

The right of every businessman, large and small, to trade in an atmosphere of freedom from [unfair competition](#) and domination by [monopolies](#) at home or abroad;

The [right of every family to a decent home](#);  
The [right to adequate medical care](#) and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health;

The right to adequate protection from the economic fears of [old age, sickness, accident, and unemployment](#);

The [right to a good education](#)

All of these rights spell security. And after this war is won we must be prepared to move forward, in the implementation of these rights, to new goals of human happiness and well-being.

America's own rightful place in the world depends in large part upon how fully these and similar rights have been carried into practice for all our citizens. For unless there is security here at home there cannot be lasting peace in the world.”

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## Thoughts on Ukraine

by Larry Kerschner

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is clearly an illegal act under international law. Does the United States, through its control of NATO, have any responsibility in the death and destruction occurring? A look at some history may provide a balance in our understanding of why this happened.

The [US Veterans for Peace](#) in an official statement maintains that: **That the people of Ukraine have the right to self-determination and to lead their own struggle for national liberation.** That all people deserve to live without military invasions, occupation, or threats of war, **including the militarization of Russia's borders by the U.S. and NATO.**

It helps to look at a bit of the record. Secretary of State James Baker and other Western leaders assured Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in 1990, at the time a unified Germany joined NATO, that the alliance would expand **“not one inch eastward.”**

Continued page 3

**[THE WORLD CANNOT RISK ANY FURTHER ESCALATION OF THIS WAR. WE NEED DIPLOMACY AND A NEGOTIATED PEACE.](#) (SEE COPEPINK.ORG/UKRAINE)**

Continued from page 2

In 1997, noting Clinton administration plans, George Kennan, the architect of the long standing US “containment” policy toward the Soviet Union wrote that “expanding NATO would be the most fateful error of American policy in the entire post–Cold War era.” Kennan continued: “Such a decision may be expected to inflame the nationalistic, anti-Western and militaristic tendencies in Russian opinion; to have an adverse effect on the development of Russian democracy; to restore the atmosphere of the Cold War to East-West relations; and to impel Russian foreign policy in directions decidedly not to our liking.”

Putin believes that Russia, *like the United States*, deserves a sphere of influence in its “near abroad.” This sounds very similar to our own Monroe Doctrine. On December 2, 1823, President James Monroe proclaimed in his annual message to Congress a new foreign policy initiative. In essence, he told the European powers that the Western Hemisphere would no longer be open to them for colonization.

The United States, Madison said, would regard any efforts to extend the political influence of the Old World into the New World “as dangerous to our peace and safety.” Little noted is that Madison also pledged that *the United States would not interfere in European wars*.

In Putin’s thinking, (as apparently was Monroe’s) small or weak states are only instruments in the hands of the great powers. Where we see Moscow’s aggression, Putin sees defense. If Russia cannot control Ukraine, then the West will. Thus, countries like Ukraine become platforms for invasion. And then the West will dismember Russia as the USSR was dismembered. In a speech at the Munich Security Conference in 2007, Putin accused Western Powers of violating a solemn pledge by considerably enlarging NATO – most notably with the Baltic countries joining the Alliance in 2004 – asking, “What happened to the assurances our Western partners made after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact?”

Next, we should take a look at the National Endowment for Democracy, a keystone of Ronald Reagan’s legacy-- a CIA offshoot founded in the 1980s supposedly to “advance democracy promotion initiatives. The NED has recently deleted all records of

funding projects in Ukraine from their searchable Awarded Grants database. A screen shot captured February 25, 2022, from 14:53 shows that NED granted \$22,394,281 in the form of 334 awards to Ukraine between 2014 to the present. Minutes later all this data was deleted.

In 1991, Washington Post article boasting of its prowess in overthrowing Communism in Eastern Europe, senior NED official Allen Weinstein acknowledged, “a lot of what we do today was done covertly 25 years ago by the CIA.” In September 2013, Carl Gershman, NED chief from its launch until summer 2021, authored an op-ed for The Washington Post, outlining how his organization was hard at work wresting countries in Russia’s near abroad—the constellation of former Soviet republics and Warsaw Pact states—away from Moscow’s orbit.

Along the way, he described Ukraine as “the biggest prize” in the region, suggesting Kiev joining Europe would “accelerate the demise” of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Six months later, Ukraine’s elected president Viktor Yanukovich was ousted in a violent coup.

NED’s pivotal role in unseating Yanukovich in 2014 can be considered beyond dispute, an unambiguous matter of record—yet not only is this never acknowledged in the mainstream press, but Western journalists consistently dismiss the idea, attacking those few who dare challenge the established orthodoxy of U.S. innocence.

See <https://mronline.org/2022/07/06/anatomy-of-a-coup/> for a close look this coup.

For an official list of military aid sent to Ukraine see: <https://www.state.gov/u-s-security-cooperation-with-ukraine/>

I pulled this information from a number of sources. It is not comprehensive but is meant to spark thought and discussion.

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[Ray McGovern’s talk at Ground Zero for Nonviolent Action on January 29, 2023: Ukraine: How We Got Here and What Now.](#) Ray McGovern was chief of the CIA’s Soviet Foreign Policy branch in the 1970s. From 1981 to 1985, he presented, in person, the early morning briefings of The President’s Daily Brief .

## Peace Requires Justice, Justice Requires Truth

by John M Repp

[Maria Ressa is a Filipino woman who jointly won the Nobel peace prize with a Russian editor in 2021.](#)

It is rare for a journalist to win the Nobel for peace; the last time that happened was in 1936 when a German reporter won for describing what was happening inside Germany. He could not accept the prize because he was in a Nazi concentration camp. Ressa founded [Rappler](#) which is a Filipino digital media company driven by uncompromising reporting. She jokes “First they came for the journalists. We don’t know what happened next.”

Journalists, like scientists, seek the truth. It is not their job to stretch the truth to sell their product. Journalists can be some of the defenders against the **creeping fascism** showing itself across the globe, if they inform the people of the truth about what is going on with their government and the economy. Fascism is based on **a lie** that certain minority groups are responsible for the economic and political problems in a country, fatefully ignoring the real power held by the huge corporations, global bankers, and the financial elites. Those targeted by the lie experience repression.

In a legitimacy crisis, fascists see that the people are ready to rise and might figure out who is really in charge, so they deflect the anger of enough of the unhappy and discontented toward a scapegoat: in the case of the Nazis, the scapegoat was “globalist” Jews; now, in the US, it is the “woke”, the “socialists”, the “immigrants” or anybody but the people really in charge. Fascists want power and celebrate domination and they protect the real elites.

Ressa must have just been in America. I saw her on the Stephen Colbert show on November 30, 2022. [She was interviewed on Amanpour and Co on December 7, 2022.](#) It is worth a look.

Ressa thinks that what has happened in the Philippines needs to be understood by American citizens. Now in the Philippines, almost 100% of the people are on Facebook and other social media. It is where they get news. Anybody can post on social media, and even more insidious, with computer programs called “bots” i.e. robots, bad actors (she calls them “troll armies”) can post thousands of messages containing misinformation and make it look like the posts came from real people. For malign

despots, foreign and domestic, social media is a good way to spread false facts and ideas. In addition, some people who work to get out the truth and report it, like Ressa, were often “bombed” with hundreds of nasty messages to shut them up.

The series she wrote about the weaponization of the internet, starting in 2016, explains the dynamics of our information ecosystem. The social media companies’ goal is to hold **our attention** for as long as they can. They learn what we like and feed us more of the same. But a real source of the danger is the fact is “lies are more interesting than facts.” That makes the goals of the social media companies, and the goals of the disinformation operatives the same: grabbing more attention so advertisers can also snatch a look from people.

Ressa at first thought social media had great potential to be a positive force for a democratic society. It could help us be better informed. Then, she watched Duterte, elected in 2015, wage a “war on drugs” that turned out to be the violent repression of the most deprived citizens in the Philippines. More recently, she has watched the family name of Marcos be transformed from pariah in 2014, when dictator Ferdinand was ousted, to hero in 2022 when Marcos’ son won the presidential election.

**So, America, you have been warned.** Ressa is very worried about what could happen here in 2024. **We need the rule of law in the virtual world.** We need to find a way to make the original promise of the World Wide Web come true. Campaigns of lying for political advantage is not “free speech”. If we revere our democracy, if we hold it sacred, then we should treat our public spaces, the forums where we express ourselves, just like we treat the spaces inside a courtroom where telling a lie is perjury. For a democracy to work, we must find good sources who want to report the truth. [“You can’t have integrity of elections without integrity of facts.”](#)



Maria Ressa giving her speech accepting the Nobel peace prize in 2021

## Nuclear Weapons: From Opposition to Abolition

by John M Repp

[Tom Rogers got a draft notice to go into the army in 1966 during Vietnam](#), so he visited a Navy recruiting office and signed up. He had been studying engineering, so he then decided to train to run a nuclear submarine power plant. He did well, serving on four nuclear subs, eventually becoming the captain of the USS Pogy in 1988. He retired in 1998. While still in the Navy, he questioned why our national security strategy was based on weapons that would cause a global holocaust. He knew that a limited nuclear was not possible, because the strategy was “counterforce”, taking out all the enemy nuclear weapons before they could fire back.

Rogers joined up with [Ground Zero for Nonviolent Action](#) after he retired. Now he has outlined for us a plan on how we can eliminate nuclear weapons from the earth. You can see his 58-minute presentation on [YouTube](#), posted by Ed Mays of Pirate TV. Roger’s plan is a step-by-step process, beginning with the United States and Russia dismantling non-deployed warheads. Non-deployed weapons are weapons that are stored away from missiles or airplanes that could deliver them. [Out of the total 12,720 warheads in the world](#), 9868 are non-deployed, the majority of which belong to United States and Russia. Getting rid of non-deployed warheads will not affect readiness but demonstrate intent.

An important part of the whole effort is **verification**, which has been part of the START i.e., Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, passed in 1994. The basics of the verification procedures go back to the 1970

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT). Verification procedures include continuous visits to warhead factories and flyover rights to observe what is happening on the ground.

Trump was going to let START expire two weeks after the 2021 presidential inauguration, and he had done nothing to negotiate a new treaty. With Biden’s action, START will now be in force until 2026. After non-deployed weapons are eliminated, we need to start negotiations for a new START treaty.

**(Putin just suspended START !!! Feb 21, 2023)**

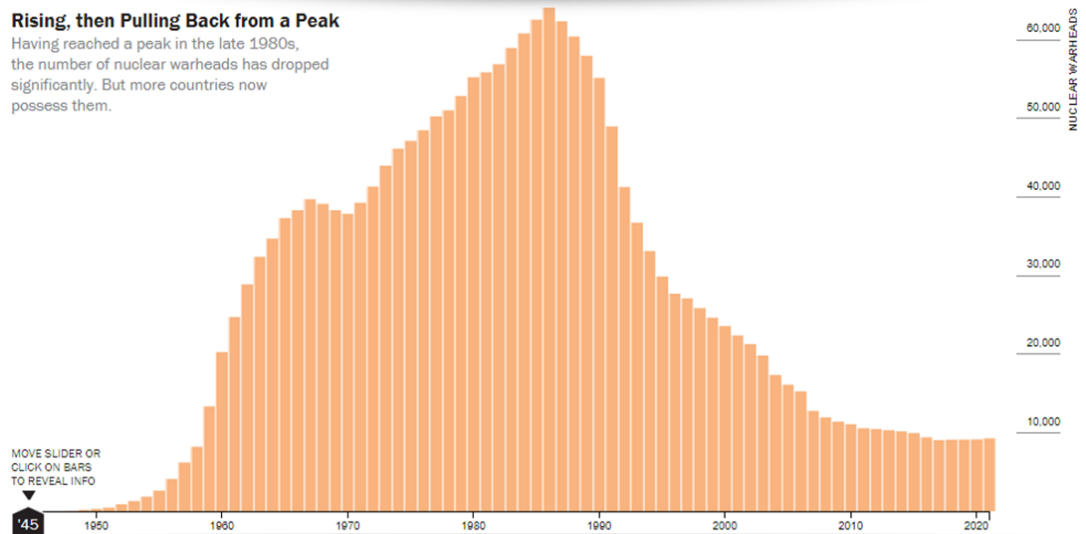
Each step of the abolition process is intended to establish trust between the nuclear armed nations. We often forget that [in 1986 there were over 70,000 warheads](#) in the world and the world has eliminated thousands through negotiations. Now we are back down to 12,270 according to the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists. But now we have more nuclear weapons possessing countries. And in 2021, the total number of warheads started to creep back up. (see the graphic)

In [Patrick Mazza’s article](#) about Tom Rogers, Mazza quotes Rogers: **“the national security strategy is written by defense contractors and high ranking officers that are going to work for defense contractors and lobbyists.”** These 23 words must be a wake-up call for all of us. Private for-profit corporations, if not regulated by a strong government working for the good of the people, are threatening the destruction of our world in two ways: climate chaos, the slow way, and nuclear war, the fast way. [Tom Rogers believes that we the people will not dislodge the awful power of the big corporations without campaign finance reform](#). So now let’s build a strategy to do that.

We made progress in the past decades, reducing the number of nuclear weapons. The world needs to continue the process until they are abolished

**Rising, then Pulling Back from a Peak**

Having reached a peak in the late 1980s, the number of nuclear warheads has dropped significantly. But more countries now possess them.



**How Our Government Has Used Nuclear Weapons since 1945**

by John M Repp from nwcitizen.com Oct 24, 2022

The possible use of nuclear weapons is back in the news after Vladimir Putin made veiled threats that if any nation tries to stop his aggression in Ukraine, he will use nuclear weapons. Putin knows he has not done anything worse than what the United States has done over the past seventy-seven years. However, he threatened publicly, while American presidents threatened using diplomatic channels.

Most people think that President Truman used atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to force the Japanese to surrender. But Truman knew the Japanese were ready to surrender because the U.S. government had learned to read the Japanese communications. Actually, Truman used the two atomic bombs the United States had constructed to show the Soviet Union what we could do, [to improve the American negotiating position](#) after the war.

Daniel Ellsberg is best known as the man who leaked the Pentagon Papers in 1971 which revealed that our government had been lying to us about the Vietnam war. What is not as well known is that Ellsberg was a nuclear war planner from 1959 until 1971.

In the book [The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner](#) published in 2017, Ellsberg states that the United States has used nuclear weapons the way a bank robber uses a gun, as **a threat to get what they want**.

It worked for Eisenhower. He communicated to China, which was involved in the Korean war, that he would use an atomic weapon in North Korea unless China pulled back and agreed to an armistice to end the conflict. Eisenhower did this using a diplomatic

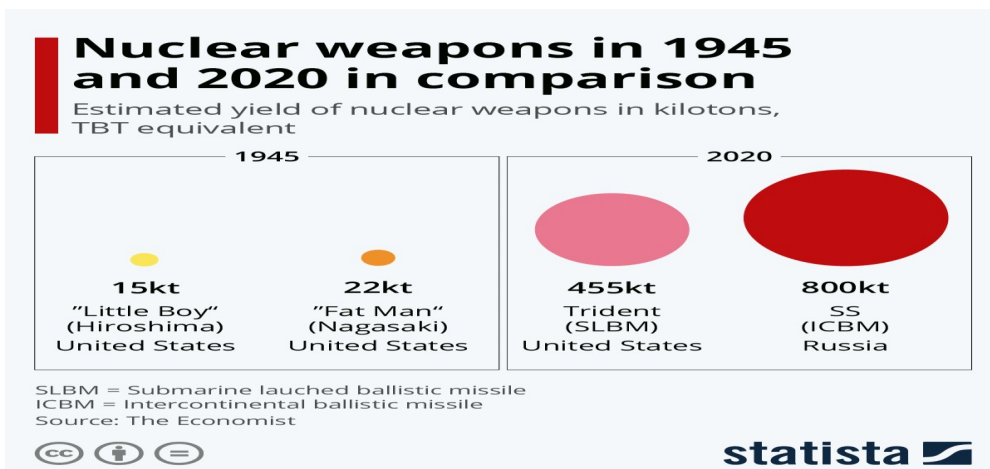
channel, so the American people did not know that such a threat was made. The scheme worked.

Nixon was Eisenhower’s vice-president. In 1968, he ran for President saying he had a “secret plan” to end the war in Vietnam. Ellsberg writes that Nixon threatened North Vietnam thirteen times with a nuclear strike to try to end that war, but **his threats did not work**, and the war was prolonged for five more years.

According to Ellsberg, the reason the United States produces so many more nuclear weapons than would be needed just for deterrence, is to prevent the nuclear-armed enemy from any possible retaliation. Ellsberg says **first use threat** has been and continues to be a keystone of American foreign policy. We have all heard the phrase “all options are on the table” from some of our presidents. Every single president since 1945 has refused to make a formal no-first-use policy.

The majority of the world’s nations want nuclear weapons abolished and on January 22, 2021 the [Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#) was ratified. Most Americans know nothing about this treaty. The non-nuclear weapons possessing nations, most of the world’s nations, see these weapons as profoundly immoral and as a threat to all of humanity and the natural world.

We can see the high monetary cost of nuclear weapons to American taxpayers by looking at the costs just to Whatcom County, Washington. Whatcom County could pay for 526 public housing units for one year if that portion of our federal taxes going to nuclear weapons modernization went into public housing instead. We could make a dent in the scandalous situation of the homeless we all see on our streets today. Even though American nuclear weapons policy and the monetary cost of it remain out-of-site, out-of-mind for most of our fellow citizens, it touches us deeply.



**Could People's Assemblies  
Save Democracy?** by John M Repp

On Friday February 24, 2023, Alex Fryer, a Seattle Times opinion columnist, published [an opinion piece](#) describing a people's assembly and suggesting that Seattle try to use the concept to cut through the horrible dysfunction in the political life of the city. A people's assembly gathers two-dozen or so people, selected at random, like a jury, and presents them with a thorny issue. The people are offered experts and any background materials they need, as they discuss the issue and try to come up with recommendations and reach a 70% consensus. Their recommendations would then go to the mayor or City Council. The key is: would the elected officials accept and institute the recommendations.

This idea is not new. It has been tried successfully around the world. There is [an organization](#) in Paris, headed by Claudai Chwalisz that works to spread the concept and explain best practices. Most of the people's assemblies have been convened by local governments, but the idea has worked on a national level as well. In 2017, an Irish people's assembly met for five weeks to deliberate the hot topic of abortion in that traditional Catholic country. They recommended that abortion be legalized and later, 66% of Irish voters approved a referendum that did just that. Decades of contentious political debate was ended.

People's Assemblies are also called Citizen's Assemblies and a few other names. [Demnext.org](#) is the non-profit based in Paris working to get people's assemblies into the political life of the European Union. There, like here in the U.S., key institutions of democratic governance have recently shown weaknesses. Elections can be influenced by money. Lobbyists swarm the legislative process. The free press, and the right of free speech can be influenced by well-funded and well organized disinformation campaigns, from bad actors, inside or outside the effected country. Polarization can cause paralysis.

On Friday, March 3, 2023, Seattle Town Hall was to present Claudia Chwalisz of Demnext.org, Marcus Harrison Green of *South Seattle Emerald* and Brandi Kruse, an Emmy-award winning journalist, in a program in their Civics series discussing people's assemblies.

**First They Came for the Queer People**  
by John M Repp

Many people have heard Pastor Martin Niemoller's famous poem:

"First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out - because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me - and there was no one left to speak for me."

Thom Hartmann in his [Friday, March 3, 2023 Hartmann Report](#) tells us that the first group that the Nazis attacked after Hitler came to power at the end of January 1933 were the trans people.

In the 1920's, being gay, lesbian or trans was widely accepted in the big cities of Germany. But within five months of Hitler taking power, Nazis showed up at the *Institute for Sexual Research* in Berlin where Magnus Hirschfeld had pioneered gender-affirming treatment and collected the largest library of books and scientific papers on the LGBTQ spectrum in the world.

The Nazis staged their first book burning there. In the controlled press, they demonized "deviance" to "protect Germany's youth".

The ACLU has tracked 371 anti-trans bills across the United States. The FBI reported a sevenfold increase in hate crimes against lesbians in 2021. Crimes against gay and trans people were up as well. Trump said that if he wins in 2024 he will propose legislation outlawing trans people.





**THE UNITED STATES MILITARY BUDGET  
FOR 2022 IS PROJECTED TO BE  
\$768 BILLION**

**WHAT DOES \$768 BILLION A YEAR LOOK LIKE?\***



**UNIVERSAL, FREE  
CHILDCARE AND PRE-K  
\$150 BILLION/YEAR**



**TUITION FREE PUBLIC  
UNIVERSITIES  
\$80 BILLION/YEAR**



**12 WEEKS NATIONAL PAID  
FAMILY/MEDICAL LEAVE  
\$55 BILLION/YEAR**



**PUBLICLY OWNED  
BROADBAND  
\$15 BILLION/YEAR**



**HOMES FOR ALL  
GUARANTEE  
\$150 BILLION/YEAR**



**100% RENEWABLE IN THE  
U.S. BY 2050  
\$270 BILLION/YEAR**



**ADD DENTAL, HEARING,  
VISION TO MEDICARE  
\$36 BILLION/YEAR**

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\*10 YEAR ESTIMATES, EXCEPT 100% RENEWABLE; \$12 BILLION REMAINDER