

**John Garamandi,
United States Representative
2368 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515**



Dear Representative Garamandi,

I am writing on behalf of the Organization for World Peace to draw your attention to an issue that should not get lost amidst the wave of chaos ongoing across the United States. There is currently legislation being pushed that would substantially limit and provide more oversight of program 1033, a program that allows the military to sell excess equipment to local police departments. But, this legislation doesn't go far enough. Allowing the program to exist in any form produces material harms for the communities it claims to protect. As the chair of the United States House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, where this legislation currently resides, you are in a unique position to send a signal to communities all over the United States that further militarization of the police is unacceptable. Given this, we urge you to push for an end to program 1033 writ large.

Program 1033 represents the failures of the United States' foreign and domestic policy. On the supply side, it shows that the United States' bloated and excessive military budget produces supplies that the military doesn't even want or need. Program 1033 creates a moral hazard incentivizing this overinvestment. This over-investment in the military has tangible effects on the demand side, where minority communities suffer most from a lack of investment in necessary domestic infrastructure, healthcare, and education. If even a fraction of the current military budget was shifted towards more productive ends like those previously mentioned, it could go a long way to resolving these disparities in access to essential services.

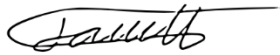
Perhaps more importantly, the program sends a clear signal to police, and the communities they work in, that they are being treated the same way enemy combatants would be. No longer are police present to "protect and serve," rather they operate as counter-insurgency operatives, treating minorities like terrorist organizations. Not only does this break down the trust so essential for police to operate effectively, it also results

in black communities becoming active warzones. The trauma and violence produced is unspeakable.

Given this, and your long history of fighting against military excess, we are confident you will look into the issue further.

Sincerely,

Christopher Eckert
Advocacy Team Member, the Organization for World Peace

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathon Arrell", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jonathon Arrell
Vice President, the Organization for World Peace