

## PAID ADVERTISING

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Pentagon admits to paying more than \$1,000 for a single coffee cup! The USDA is spending millions subsidizing cricket farms to raise bugs for human consumption. The National Science Foundation has paid to put a shrimp on a treadmill to see how long it can run.

The next page contains one hundred equally ridiculous examples of government waste and incompetence. Examples of government waste could fill every page of every newspaper in the United States.

Under the last two administrations, the federal debt exploded from \$5.8 trillion at the beginning of the Bush Administration to \$19.9 trillion at the end of the Obama Administration. A shocking triple!

Unfortunately, as the examples on the next page clearly show, government continues wasting tax dollars. The federal debt now exceeds \$21 trillion.

Mr. President, you can change this. You do not need Congressional approval to do so. As Commander-in-Chief, you can address the federal deficit by waging a nonpartisan War on Waste with a three-pronged attack:

1. You can weaken the enemy, the spending culture in government, by starting a Transparency Revolution.

Post online, as quickly as possible, every cent the White House spends.

Direct every executive branch department, agency, and office to do the same and report their progress to you each month. Challenge Congress, the courts, and every government agency to follow your lead.

National security expenditures would be exempt but carefully monitored. Require the Department of Defense to pass an audit.

The Transparency Revolution will change the culture in Washington. Knowing every government expenditure will be public – knowing there is no place to hide – will cause those requesting ridiculous government grants and those approving ridiculous government grants to think twice.

2. Cut White House expenditures by ten percent as quickly as possible.

Require every executive branch department, agency, and office in your administration to cut spending by five percent and report to you their progress or lack of progress each month.

Challenge Congress, the courts, and every government agency to do the same.

Five percent is a modest goal! The examples on the next page are just the tip of the iceberg. This results from a culture of indifference and a lack of respect for the taxpaying public.

3. Beginning immediately, and on the first of every month for at least the next year, personally report to the public the progress or lack of progress in detail.

As Commander-in-Chief, you will have begun a nonpartisan War on Waste. No other president has ever done this. That taxpayer dollars are being squandered is unassailable. That government spending can be greatly reduced without impacting the effectiveness of government programs is indisputable. Removing waste and fraud should, in fact, improve the efficiency of every government department and program.

Economic sanity, like a strong defense, is important to the long-term survival of this great country as our founders envisioned it.

Mr. President, to truly make America great again, the irresponsible, egregious government spending and the seemingly insurmountable deficit crisis must be addressed. As Commander-in-Chief, you can make that happen by waging a nonpartisan War on Waste.

Respectfully,



Dr. Tom Coburn  
Honorary Chairman



Thomas W. Smith  
Chairman



Adam Andrzejewski  
CEO & Founder

OpenTheBooks.com is a nonpartisan organization. Our goal is to post every federal, state, and local government expenditure online in real time so that everyone—the public, politicians, would-be politicians, academics, think tanks—has access from their cell phones, iPads, or computers.

We welcome your support in our nonpartisan War on Waste.  
It's Your Government. It's Your Money.



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**BOOKS**  
IT'S YOUR MONEY!

Join The Transparency Revolution!

For more information please visit [www.OpenTheBooks.com](http://www.OpenTheBooks.com)

PAID ADVERTISING

# America Needs a War on Waste!

## 100 Examples of Federal Taxpayer Abuse

To learn more about these examples, visit [OpenTheBooks.com](http://OpenTheBooks.com)

**MISTAKES & IMPROPER PAYMENTS DISTRIBUTED BY 20 FEDERAL AGENCIES – \$1.2 TRILLION**  
FY2004–FY2017 | CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

**MISTAKES & IMPROPER MEDICARE PAYMENTS – \$387 BILLION**  
FY2004–FY2017 | HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

**USE IT OR LOSE IT SPENDING – \$50 BILLION**  
FINAL WEEK FY2017 | ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES

**BUYING BOOZE FOR EMBASSIES AROUND THE WORLD – \$79,000**  
FINAL WEEK FY2017 | STATE DEPARTMENT

**PURCHASING FIDGET SPINNERS – \$6,600**  
FINAL WEEK FY2017 | DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

**MISTAKES & IMPROPER MEDICAID PAYMENTS – \$234 BILLION**  
FY2004–FY2017 | HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

**IVY LEAGUE COLLEGES – \$42 BILLION**  
FY2010–2015 | FEDERAL PAYMENTS, SUBSIDIES, TAX–BREAKS | ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES

**SEX ED FOR PROSTITUTES IN CALIFORNIA – \$1.4 MILLION**  
FY2016 | BARBARA LEE | CALIFORNIA–13 | DEMOCRAT

**COLLEGES OF BEAUTY & COSMETOLOGY – \$677.4 MILLION**  
FY2017–2018 | DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**AVERAGE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE RECEIVES 43 DAYS PAID TIME OFF – \$22.6 BILLION**  
FY2016 | U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

**35,212 FEDERAL LAWYERS – \$4.8 BILLION**  
FY2017 | OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

**3,618 FEDERAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS – \$368.4 MILLION**  
FY2017 | 202 FEDERAL AGENCIES | OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

**160,000 DEFAULTED SBA LOANS – \$24.2 BILLION**  
SINCE 2000 | SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**LUXURY ARTWORK PURCHASES – \$20 MILLION**  
FY2007–FY2016 | DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**MISTAKES & IMPROPER STUDENT LOANS AND GRANTS – \$11 BILLION**  
FY2016–FY2017 | DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**SBA LOANS TO EXCLUSIVE CLUBS (COUNTRY CLUBS, YACHT CLUBS, ETC.) – \$161 MILLION**  
FY2007–FY2013 | SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**PURCHASING \$800 PENCIL HOLDERS & \$7,000 EXECUTIVE DESKS**  
FY2015 | ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**CIGAR TASTE TEST – \$114,375**  
FY2016 | ROBERT SCOTT | VIRGINIA–3 | DEMOCRAT

**PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS CAREER COLLEGE – \$4.5 MILLION**  
FY2014–FY2017 | DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**MISTAKES & IMPROPER FARM SUBSIDY PAYMENTS – \$3.7 BILLION**  
FY2004–FY2017 | DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**USING E-DIARIES TO COPE WITH MICROAGGRESSIONS – \$173,089**  
FY2016 | ADAM KINZINGER | ILLINOIS–16 | REPUBLICAN

**DANCING WITH 15-FOOT FISH – \$10,000**  
FY2016 | NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

**MEDITATION BREATHING MOBILE APP – \$687,989**  
FY2016 | JIM CLYBURN | SOUTH CAROLINA–6 | DEMOCRAT

**FARM SUBSIDIES INTO URBAN AREAS – \$626 MILLION**  
FY2015–2017 | POPULATION OVER 250K | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**FARM SUBSIDIES INTO AMERICA'S 150 MOST EXPENSIVE ZIP CODES – \$4.8 MILLION**  
FY2017 | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**389 FARM SUBSIDY RECIPIENTS OF +\$1 MILLION – \$667 MILLION**  
FY2017 | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**12 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS COLLECTED FARM SUBSIDY PAYMENTS – \$637,059**  
FY2017 | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**FUNDING A FREQUENTLY INVESTIGATED CHILDCARE FACILITY IN TEXAS – \$14.9 MILLION**  
FY2014–FY2016 | HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**WHERE IT HURTS THE MOST TO BE STUNG BY A BEE – \$1 MILLION**  
FY2015 | NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

**NON-MILITARY AGENCIES PURCHASE GUNS, AMMUNITION, AND MILITARY-STYLE EQUIPMENT – \$2.2 BILLION**  
FY2006–FY2017 | 67 NON-MILITARY FEDERAL AGENCIES

**IRS PURCHASE OF GUNS, AMMUNITION, AND MILITARY-STYLE EQUIPMENT – \$15.5 MILLION**  
FY2006–FY2017 | INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

**VA PURCHASE OF GUNS, AMMUNITION, AND MILITARY-STYLE EQUIPMENT – \$17.5 MILLION**  
FY2006–FY2017 | DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**FLEET OF ARMORED VEHICLES – \$1.5 MILLION**  
FY2017 | DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**REFRAMING BELIEFS ABOUT DEATH & DYING AMONG LATINOS – \$882,841**  
FY2015 | CORNELL UNIVERSITY | NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

**TALKING TO SAGUARO CACTUS – \$10,000**  
FY2016 | NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

**USING SOAP OPERAS TO REDUCE HIV IN URBAN BLACK WOMEN – \$567,529**  
FY2016 | MIKE CAPUANO | MASSACHUSETTS–7 | DEMOCRAT

**27' ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE – \$21,500**  
FY2016 | DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**STUDY: HOW FACEBOOK AFFECTS ALCOHOL USE – \$147,686**  
FY2016 | JIM MCDERMOTT | WASHINGTON–7 | DEMOCRAT

**SPACE RACERS: AN ANIMATED CHILDREN'S CARTOON – \$2.5 MILLION**  
FY2016 | MO BROOKS | ALABAMA–5 | REPUBLICAN

**HIPSTER PARTIES – \$5 MILLION**  
FY2015 | NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

**VIRTUAL REALITY TO TEACH CHILDREN IN CHINA HOW TO CROSS THE STREET – \$183,750**  
FY2016 | TERRI SEWELL | ALABAMA–5 | DEMOCRAT

**SCHOOL OF WOODEN BOAT BUILDING – \$781,330**  
FY2014–FY2017 | DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**HISTORIC HOBO DAY – \$11,987**  
FY2016 | KRISTI NOEM | SOUTH DAKOTA–1 | REPUBLICAN

**TAI CHI FOR THE ELDERLY – \$696,723**  
FY2016 | MIKE CAPUANO | MASSACHUSETTS–7 | DEMOCRAT

**VIDEO GAME FOR YOUR FUTURE-SELF – \$651,498**  
FY2016 | ROBERT WITTMAN | VIRGINIA–1 | REPUBLICAN

**STUDY: ARE PHYSICIAN TRAINEES RACIST? – \$932,741**  
FY2016 | TIM WALZ | MINNESOTA–1 | DEMOCRAT

**LISTENING TO NATIONAL PARKS – \$20,000**  
FY2016 | DAN BENISHEK | MICHIGAN–1 | REPUBLICAN

**PREVENTING TEEN PREGNANCY THROUGH THEATER – \$749,000**  
FY2016 | CHAKA FATTAH | PENNSYLVANIA–2 | DEMOCRAT

**VIRTUAL SHOE-FITTING – \$902,789**  
FY2015-16 | MORGAN GRIFFITH | VIRGINIA–9 | REPUBLICAN  
FY2015-16 | ANNA ESHOO | CALIFORNIA-18 | DEMOCRAT

**THE DICTATOR GAME – \$56,118**  
FY2016 | CHARLIE RANGEL | NEW YORK–13 | DEMOCRAT

**VIDEO GAME: THE LOGICAL JOURNEY OF THE ZOOMBINIS – \$658,388**  
FY2016 | KATHERINE CLARK | MASSACHUSETTS–5 | DEMOCRAT

**RESEARCHING STIGMATIZATION OF DANISH SMOKERS – \$330,176**  
FY2016 | LOU BARLETTA | PENNSYLVANIA–11 | REPUBLICAN

**STUDY: DISEASE SUSCEPTIBILITY OF TRANSLOCATING TORTOISES – \$350,773**  
FY2016 | GLENN THOMPSON | PENNSYLVANIA–5 | REPUBLICAN

**MOBILE APP FOR SEX DIARY – \$1 MILLION**  
FY2016 | GRACE NAPOLITANO | CALIFORNIA–32 | DEMOCRAT

**CONVINCING MOTHERS TO STOP TEEN GIRLS FROM USING TANNING BEDS – \$671,522**  
FY2016 | ED PERLMUTTER | COLORADO–7 | DEMOCRAT

**VIDEO GAME TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO QUIT SMOKING – \$1.3 MILLION**  
FY2014–FY2017 | HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**650 FEDERAL GARDENERS & LANDSCAPERS – \$44 MILLION**  
FY2016 | U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

**MEASURING BLOOD PRESSURE AT BLACK BARBERSHOPS – \$2.1 MILLION**  
FY2016 | ADAM SCHIFF | CALIFORNIA–28 | DEMOCRAT

**REPLACING A FLOATING BATHROOM IN UTAH – \$227,795**  
FY2016 | CHRIS STEWART | UTAH–2 | REPUBLICAN

**SMART WALK: AN EXERCISE MOBILE APP FOR AFRICAN-AMERICA WOMEN – \$92,393**  
FY2016 | KRISTEN SINEMA | ARIZONA–9 | DEMOCRAT

**VIDEO GAMES TO FIGHT OBESITY AND DIABETES – \$537,250**  
FY2016 | AL GREEN | TEXAS–9 | DEMOCRAT

**EPIDEMIC SIMULATION GAME FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS – \$350,236**  
FY2016 | DAVID MCKINLEY | WEST VIRGINIA–1 | REPUBLICAN

**HOW AIR POLLUTION AFFECTS BIRTH BY RACE – \$788,664**  
FY2016 | JERRY MCNERNEY | CALIFORNIA–9 | DEMOCRAT

**MOBILE APP FOR OBESITY AND STRESS – \$690,333**  
FY2016 | JAMES MCGOVERN | MASSACHUSETTS–2 | DEMOCRAT

**TESTING FDA MESSAGING ON TOBACCO ADVERTISING – \$4 MILLION**  
FY2016 | DAVID PRICE | NORTH CAROLINA–4 | DEMOCRAT

**CHILDREN'S CYBERSECURITY CARD GAME – \$296,621**  
FY2016 | DANNY DAVIS | ILLINOIS–7 | DEMOCRAT

**VIRTUAL WEIGHT LOSS GAME – \$228,830**  
FY2016 | HENRY JOHNSON, JR. | GEORGIA–4 | DEMOCRAT

**VIDEO GAME: LAYOFF – FIRING WORKERS, NOT BANKERS – \$137,530**  
FY2015 | DARTMOUTH COLLEGE | NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

**SMARTPHONE APP FOR PARKING YOUR CAR – \$149,999**  
FY2016 | KRISTEN SINEMA | ARIZONA–9 | DEMOCRAT

**HIGH-END LUXURY FURNITURE – \$92 MILLION**  
FY2008–FY2015 | ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**PAYMENTS TO GAY MEXICAN PROSTITUTES FOR SAFE SEX – \$53,419**  
FY2015 | BROWN UNIVERSITY | NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

**DYSTOPIAN CLIMATE CHANGE VOICEMAILS FROM THE FUTURE – \$5.7 MILLION**  
FY2012 | COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY | NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

**FEDERAL FUNDING INTO THE 50 WORST JUNIOR AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES – \$923.5 MILLION**  
FY2017–2018 | DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**NEW CONDOM DESIGN WITH MORE LUBRICATION – \$200,601**  
FY2016 | JOSEPH KENNEDY III | MASSACHUSETTS–4 | DEMOCRAT

**FUNDING CHRISTIAN SEMINARIES – \$815 MILLION**  
FY2014–FY2017 | DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**SBA LOANS TO ROLEX JEWELERS – \$21 MILLION**  
FY2007–FY2013 | SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**TWO SCULPTURES FOR VA FACILITY THAT SERVES BLIND VETERANS – \$670,000**  
FY2016 | DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**FANCY ROCK SCULPTURE – \$482,960**  
FY2016 | DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**GRANTS TO THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART IN NEW YORK CITY – \$1.2 MILLION**  
SINCE FY2009 | NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

**ROBERT REDFORD'S SUNDANCE INSTITUTE – \$3.3 MILLION**  
SINCE FY2009 | NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

**FEMINIST PORN BOOK AND OTHER TITLES – \$55,000**  
FY2016 | NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

**SAN FRANCISCO MIME TROUPE – \$20,000**  
FY2016 | NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

**"GAMES FOR CHANGE" VIDEO GAME CONVENTION – \$200,000**  
FY2016 | NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

**URBAN GARDEN OF HANGING GRASS – \$20,000**  
FY2016 | NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

**WALDEN: THE GAME – \$350,000**  
FY2016 | NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

**ARTS GRANTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS WITH OVER \$1 BILLION IN ASSETS – \$143 MILLION**  
FY2009–2016 | NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

**BLOG FOR BROOKFIELD ZOO – \$131,488**  
FY2016 | NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PUBLIC RELATIONS – \$4.3 BILLION**  
FY2007–FY2014 | ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES

**COMEDY CLUB HOLOGRAMS – \$1.7 MILLION**  
FY2017 | DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**HOW TO USE A LAWYER GUIDE – \$728,000**  
FY2015 | DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**LIGHTING FOR LIQUOR STORES – \$50,000**  
FY2017 | DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**PREPARING RELIGIONS FOR DISCOVERY OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE – \$1.1 MILLION**  
FY2017 | NATIONAL AERONAUTICS SPACE AND ADMINISTRATION

**GOVERNMENT CHEESE SUBSIDIES – \$21.8 MILLION**  
FY2016 | DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**AIRPORT AT MARTHA'S VINEYARD – \$9.2 MILLION**  
FY2016 | DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**270 FEDERAL INTERIOR DESIGNERS – \$22 MILLION**  
FY2016 | U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

**EPA PURCHASE OF GUNS, AMMO, AND MILITARY-STYLE EQUIPMENT – \$3.4 MILLION**  
FY2006–FY2017 | ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**CRESCENT CITY SCHOOL OF GAMING AND BARTENDING – \$9.5 MILLION**  
FY2014–FY2017 | DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEYS – \$1.7 MILLION**  
FY2007–FY2014 | DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**HOW ALCOHOL AFFECTS MEN'S ATTENTION AND SENSITIVITY TO SEXUAL INTEREST CUES – \$180,921**  
FY2016 | DAVE LOEBSACK | IOWA–2 | DEMOCRAT

**DIGIPEN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY – GAMING EDUCATION – \$51.4 MILLION**  
FY2014–FY2017 | DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

