

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**A Strong America Needs More than Shiny New Military Hardware**  
*AACP concerned President Trump's proposed budget threatens nation's health*

Little good will come of increasing our defense infrastructure if the individuals willing to ensure our nation's defense are physically and mentally unprepared for service.

In 2010, our nation's retired military leaders stated that armed services [recruits were overweight and physically incapable](#) of becoming active members of the military.

A follow-up report in 2015 found that [70% of young adults would not qualify](#) for military service.

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) is concerned that the health and education of our nation's youth—including military recruits—is placed in serious jeopardy by the recommendations in the White House FY18 budget blueprint. Defense of our nation will only suffer if we reduce funding for research and the search for new knowledge; development and support of evidence-based disease prevention and wellness programs; and an education system focused on both physical and mental growth.

The budget blueprint, short on details, and long on disastrous impact on our nation's health and defense, sets dangerous national priorities. We look forward to congressional appropriations committees to steer a better course to keep America safe.