



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter
In Favor of SJ0002 Use of Nuclear Weapons
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
On March 8, 2024**

Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Senate Joint Resolution 002, which is modeled after the groundbreaking initiative "Back from the Brink: Bringing Communities Together to Abolish Nuclear Weapons." This resolution presents a critical opportunity for our state to contribute to the global effort to reduce the catastrophic risks associated with nuclear weapons.

The "Back from the Brink" campaign offers a pragmatic and comprehensive approach to addressing the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons. Its five-point set of policy solutions provides a clear pathway towards significantly reducing the likelihood of nuclear conflict and advancing the cause of nuclear disarmament.

By endorsing Senate Joint Resolution 002, we affirm our commitment to:

- 1. Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first: This policy shift promotes a more responsible approach to national security by reducing the risk of nuclear escalation and prioritizing diplomacy and conflict resolution.**

- 2. Ending the president's unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack: Reining in presidential sole authority over nuclear weapons is essential for upholding democratic principles and ensuring that decisions with such far-reaching consequences are subject to careful consideration and oversight.**
- 3. Taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert: Removing nuclear weapons from hair-trigger alert status reduces the risk of accidental or unauthorized launches, mitigating the potential for catastrophic miscalculations.**
- 4. Canceling the president's nuclear modernization program: Halting the costly and destabilizing nuclear modernization program frees up resources that can be redirected towards pressing human needs, such as healthcare, education, and climate action.**
- 5. Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals: Engaging in multilateral negotiations for nuclear disarmament demonstrates our commitment to fulfilling international obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and advancing the cause of peace and security for all nations.**

A favorable vote on Senate Joint Resolution 002 sends a powerful message that our state stands firmly on the side of sanity, safety, and humanity in the face of the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons. By joining the "Back from the Brink" campaign, we demonstrate leadership in promoting a world free from the specter of nuclear annihilation.

I urge a favorable vote to support this crucial resolution and seize this historic opportunity to advance the cause of peace, security, and disarmament.

Sincerely,

Senator Jill P. Carter

