

Testimony for MD Senate Resolution SJ0002

As a Maryland voter, I ask you to vote for SJ2. As a representative of Pax Christi USA, the Catholic peace movement, and, as a member locally with Pax Christi - St. John the Baptist in Silver Spring, MD, I have advocated for the abolition of nuclear weapons for more than 35 years. Today, these weapons are much more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb. Dr. Ira Helfand has estimated that a relatively small nuclear exchange could kill twenty million people immediately and by radiation, within the first week. The U.S. government was eliminating these weapons but has stopped, and is now committing a trillion dollars to "modernize" its nuclear weapons. We must make our state-level voices heard against this. We must call for federal safeguards against these weapons and then for their elimination.

Why is this a STATE issue? 1) If accidentally, or by an act of war, a weapon is detonated, we in Maryland would be in danger of death, living so close to DC., which would be a natural target. 2) A nuclear exchange anywhere in the world would cause a climate catastrophe, that is, it would throw so much ash into the atmosphere that nuclear winter and famine would result, affecting at least a third of the earth. 4) Nuclear weapons and defense spending absorb a large amount of Marylanders' tax dollars which could be used locally instead.

I urge you to support SJ0002. Thank you.

Veronica Fellerath-Lowell, Silver Spring, MD