

## BEYOND NUCLEAR

### **SJ0002 –Use of Nuclear Weapons Hearing in Education, Energy and the Environment MARCH 8, 2024: 9 am Position: SUPPORT (FAV)**

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Beyond Nuclear urges the Maryland Senate to pass SJ0002, a resolution asking the federal government to endorse the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and to enact the five policy points of the Back from the Brink (BFTB) campaign:

- Negotiating nuclear disarmament with the other 8 nuclear nations.
- Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first.
- Ending presidential sole authority to initiate a nuclear launch
- Taking nuclear weapons off of hair trigger alert.
- Ending the expensive, destabilizing plans to modernize our nuclear weapons arsenal.  
nuclear weapons.

It urges our U.S. representatives to cosponsor H.Res.77: which supports TPNW and BFTB.

Beyond Nuclear is a Takoma Park, Maryland-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that seeks to educate and activate the public about the connections between nuclear weapons and nuclear power and the need to abandon both to safeguard our future. The organization works with diverse partners and allies to provide its members, the public, government officials, and the media with the critical information necessary to move humanity toward free from the threats of nuclear war or nuclear accident. Beyond Nuclear is a member organization of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize-winning network, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, one of the architects of the TPNW.

A nuclear war should never fought and cannot be won. The only way to ensure this never happens is to eradicate nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons do not serve as a deterrent. To do so, governments would need to have 100% certainty that there was no possibility of failure. This is unachievable. Nuclear weapons, even if not launched as act of war, could be launched accidentally, through a technical failure, by a rogue insider, or in response to a misinterpretation of threat such as a satellite launch. We have already experienced several close calls of the latter.

SJ0002 is similar to resolutions that have passed in seven state legislatures and 76 municipalities across the U.S as well as in Baltimore City, the city of Frederick, Prince George's County and Montgomery County – jurisdictions that include 43% of Maryland's population.

In FY 2023, the current nuclear weapons complex [cost](#) Americans an estimated \$90 billion and Marylanders more \$2 billion in taxes. This represents a terrible theft from the public health needs of our state and our nation as well as fueling a destabilizing nuclear arms race which increases the risk of unintended nuclear war by error, impulse or cyber-attack. In the shadow of Washington DC, Marylanders are close to ground zero. [This is a local issue.](#)

Global instability is growing and so are the nuclear weapon arsenals of the world's superpowers, especially the United States, Russia and China. This cannot end well and is a needless and reckless

expense at a time when all resources should be collectively directed toward addressing our ever-worsening climate crisis and other triggering stressors that could lead to war.

Beyond Nuclear urges the Maryland Senate to pass SJ0002, joining the growing list of state legislatures and local governments that have urged the United States Government and the President to end dangerous, expensive last century nuclear weapons policies, and reduce the risk of nuclear war while creating a multilateral pathway to nuclear disarmament.

If you have any questions, please contact: Linda Pentz Gunter, International Specialist, Beyond Nuclear, [linda@beyondnuclear.org](mailto:linda@beyondnuclear.org). 301-455-5655.