

**SJ0002 –Use of Nuclear Weapons**  
**Hearing in EEE Committee MARCH 8, 2024: 9 am**  
**Position: SUPPORT (FAV)**

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Chairman Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

I am Dr Terry Fitzgerald. I am a voting Maryland citizen in District 41, a physician, a member of Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility, and a grandfather. I urge you to approve SJ 2, a resolution that seeks to preserve life by calling on the federal government to take actions that could reduce the risk of nuclear war.

At my birthday last week I turned 75 years old. When my youngest grandchild turns that age, the year will be 2098. Statistically, even if there is only a small risk of nuclear war each year, we are almost certain to suffer that catastrophe by that time...**UNLESS** we take steps now to reduce that risk.

SJ 2 is one such step. The national government often requires leadership from individuals who are close to the population. Those individuals are you.

After the immediate awe-full effects of the detonation of a **single** nuclear bomb – the unimaginable fireball, the incineration of everything nearby that can burn or melt, the literal vaporization of humans (leaving only a shadow on the concrete), the unimaginable overpressures, the devastating winds which turn every bit of debris including shards of glass into penetrating missiles which tear up the flesh of any living thing in their path – after all that, there will be darkness and stillness.

Screams will begin – for help... for death. But no help will be on the way. I have been residency trained and board certified in Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine. But my years of training and our centuries of medical progress will be of no value – because the hospitals will be destroyed and most medical personal will themselves be dead or severely wounded. Any facility that remains will be able to offer only limited first aid. And assistance from outside the area of devastation will be limited by the destruction of roads, bridges, etc, AND by the danger to any person entering the area soon after the explosion. Thousands of burn victims could be expected. In all of the United States there are only up to 1700 specialty burn beds.

As a medical specialist I can tell you this: There is no treatment for a disaster like this. No treatment. Only prevention.

As a grandparent I can tell you this: I have looked into the eyes of a 1 year old child and seen the terror of nuclear war. I plead with you to take this action to prove my vision wrong.

Vote **FAVORABLE** on SJ 2

As an addendum, I would urge you to look at the first of a series of articles on this subject that are appearing in the New York Times. The series is entitled “At the Brink.” The first article was published on March 4, 2024. It is called “The Brink.” Be advised: In order to read the articles

you will need to keep scrolling down, even when it seems that you are not moving. The page will become darker and eventually you will move to the text. The links follow:

[https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/03/04/opinion/nuclear-weapons-nytimes.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.a00.UpKX.TwyP2k8yIbrG&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/03/04/opinion/nuclear-weapons-nytimes.html?unlocked_article_code=1.a00.UpKX.TwyP2k8yIbrG&smid=url-share)

[https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/03/07/opinion/nuclear-war-prevention.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.a00.1e-a.4s4YN7F5hqf\\_&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/03/07/opinion/nuclear-war-prevention.html?unlocked_article_code=1.a00.1e-a.4s4YN7F5hqf_&smid=url-share)

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