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Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

March 13, 2025

Senate Joint Resolution 4 – *Use of Nuclear Weapons*

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, supports Senate Joint Resolution 4.

This resolution is modeled after “Back from the Brink: Bringing Communities Together to Abolish Nuclear Weapons,” a national grassroots campaign that calls for a simple, 5-point set of practical policy solutions that would greatly reduce the risks posed by nuclear weapons and the chances that they will ever be used. Back from the Brink’s coalition of individuals, organizations, and elected officials is working toward a world free of nuclear weapons by building broad, bi-partisan public and congressional support for fundamental changes in the U.S nuclear weapons policy. This organization's comprehensive policy prescriptions for preventing nuclear war formed the basis for House Resolution 77 (US House of Reps) introduced in January 2023. Today, nine nations possess approximately 13,100 nuclear weapons, far more destructive than those detonated over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan in 1945. The detonation of even a small number of these weapons would have catastrophic global consequences. The medical community has long recognized the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, making the prohibition of these weapons not just a moral imperative but also a grave public health issue.

MedChi calls upon the United States and other governments to abandon plans to develop and deploy new nuclear weapons because of the threat they pose to the public’s health and call on the countries of the world to affirm their commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons for the protection of the lives and health of current and future generations. By leading the way in nuclear disarmament, we can help prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons and promote a safer, more stable world for future generations. We urge a favorable report.

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