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SJ 4 –Use of Nuclear Weapons Hearing in Senate E, E, & E Committee - MARCH 12, 2025 Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

Chair Feldman, Vice-chair Kagan, and members of the Rules Committee.

I am Dr Terry Fitzgerald - a physician, a member of Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility, and a grandfather. **I urge you to approve SJ 4**, a resolution that calls on the federal government to take actions to reduce the risk of nuclear war.

Last week I turned 76 years old. My youngest grandchild turns that age in 2099. Statistically, even if there is only a small risk of nuclear war each year, we are almost certain to suffer that catastrophe by then...**UNLESS** we take steps now to reduce that risk. SJ 4 is one such step. The national government often requires leadership from individuals who are close to the population. Those individuals are you.

Years ago when we spoke with Senator Mac Mathias about nuclear war, he noted how terrible it would be and commented that at least there would be a flash and it would be over. We explained to him that it is much more complicated than that. Now, all these years later we know much more about how complicated it would be.

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

But that is just the beginning. As described in Annie Jacobsen's detailed and well documented recent book, Nuclear War - A Scenario, a global thermonuclear war might last just 72 minutes. Hundreds of millions are already dead. Many more will die soon from radiation, fires, toxic chemicals in the air, and other causes. But the resulting nuclear winter could result in five billion deaths from starvation over the next 24 months. Civilization would be gone.

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

A principle of public health is: **We must prevent what we cannot cure.**

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 4.

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