

Title: Use of Nuclear Weapons  
Committee: Education, Energy, and Environment  
Hearing: March 13, 2025  
Testimony: Favorable

Now more than ever, we need to change our nuclear weapons policies. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists set its Doomsday Clock to 89 seconds to midnight—the closest it has ever been. But instead of fulfilling obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to move in good faith toward eliminating nuclear arsenals, the United States and the other nuclear-armed nations are building new, enhanced weapons. We must pursue a verifiable agreement among these nations to eliminate these arsenals.

But despite a global movement calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons and the entry into force of the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in January 2021, no nuclear armed country has agreed to endorse such a call. But the United States could take some steps to make nuclear war less likely. Our state has an important role to play in urging our federal government to take a new look at 70-year-old dangerous policies that make it more likely nuclear war will start because of misstep, miscalculation or misunderstanding. That is what SJ0004 is all about. It is a call to take our country back from the brink of nuclear war. Eight other state legislative bodies have passed resolutions similar to this one.

Enough is enough. It is time to leave behind our dangerous approach to nuclear weapons and to usher in a new era of real security. The passage of SJ0004. by the Maryland Senate would be a step in marshalling public opinion in this direction. Maryland Peace Action urges this committee to vote favorably on this resolution.