

Testimony SJ4 Sierra Club.pdf

Uploaded by: Arthur Milholland

Position: FAV

Sierra Club National statements support SJ0004 and its adoption:

(1) Sierra Club endorsement of Back from the Brink call to Prevent Nuclear War:

We call on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- * renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
 - * ending the sole, unchecked authority of any US president to launch a nuclear attack;
 - * taking US nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
 - * cancelling the plan to replace the entire US nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons;
- and
- * actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

Position endorsed Aug. 13, 2019 by National Program co-leads Ramon Cruz and Debbie Sease

(2) Sierra Club Supports the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

History proves that the production and testing of nuclear weapons poses grave environmental risks. The cost to human life and health and the environmental devastation caused by the use of nuclear weapons is unthinkable. Sierra Club applauds the efforts of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, recipient of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, and supports global ratification and implementation of a verifiable, binding UN treaty with the goal of reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons.

Adopted by the Board of Directors, November 8, 2017

Signed: Arthur Milholland, M.D.
Sierra Club LIFE Member

CCooper_SJ4_031325.pdf

Uploaded by: Charlie Cooper

Position: FAV

Charlie Cooper

2359 Nutmeg Terrace

Baltimore, MD 21209

Testimony in Support of SJ 4 – Use of Nuclear Weapons

To the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

March 13, 2025

The Maryland General Assembly should add its voice to those who seek to bring us back from the brink of nuclear war. Nuclear war could end civilization as we know it. Various simulations conducted by military experts, scientists, and scholars suggest that any nuclear exchange would be highly likely to lead to all-out nuclear war. Maryland, lying near Washington, DC, and containing multiple military bases, would be subject to direct strikes and to indirect damage. Some people would be instantaneously vaporized while others would be painfully and/or mortally injured. Electricity would fail and health care would be unavailable to most of us. The best estimate of the number of deaths from a full-scale nuclear war is about 5,000,000,000 (five billion) human beings – most of whom would die of starvation.

Almost eighty years have passed since the last time nuclear weapons were used in war. Some people may have a false sense that nuclear war *will* not happen because it *has* not happened in what seems like a long time. People who carefully study this frightful topic, however, say that the risk of nuclear annihilation has reached an all-time high.

An initial nuclear warhead launch can happen by accident – and once a warhead is launched, the risks to all of humanity rise by several orders of magnitude. Heightened tensions between the United States and Russia or between India and Pakistan can increase the chance of an accidental launch. Factors involved in an accidental nuclear launch could include:

- Equipment failure in warning systems
- Human error in interpreting signals from warning systems
- Mistakes and mental illness of nuclear weapons personnel.

When a signal is received, a complex cascade of automated and human responses is initiated. A faulty computer chip or other component can lead to disaster as can a faulty response by a technician in the command chain.

It is well-documented that migratory birds, satellite explosions, reflections of sunlight, civilian rocket launches, and other false signals have initiated nuclear alerts.ⁱ

While to some it may seem that the chances of a nuclear exchange can safely be ignored, the truth is that a nuclear accident is inevitable with thousands of warheads on hair-trigger alert. It could happen decades or centuries from now, or apocalypse could happen later today.

There is some good news:

- 73 nations are parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
- The California, Oregon, New Jersey, and Rhode Island legislatures and over 75 local jurisdictions have passed resolutions similar to SJ 4.

Congress and the President can bring us back from the brink. Every knowledgeable and responsible person should be engaged in this project of preserving humankind. Members of the Maryland General Assembly can support this Senate Joint Resolution 4. Your favorable report on SJ 4 will start the ball rolling toward passage. That would send a message to the President, the Congress, and other states to build an even stronger public consensus to prevent nuclear war.

ⁱ <https://www.globalzero.org/updates/seven-things-mistaken-for-an-incoming-nuclear-attack/index.html>

SJ0004_FAV_MedChi_Use of Nuclear Weapons.pdf

Uploaded by: Christine Krone

Position: FAV



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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.

For more information call:

Christine K. Krone
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
410-244-7000

HJ6:SJ4nuclear.pdf

Uploaded by: Dan Morhaim

Position: FAV

TO: Senate EEE Committee and House Rules Committee

Position Statement in Support of HJ6/SJ4 – Use of Nuclear Weapons

It's hard to quantify the impact of a nuclear war. Suffice it to say that it would be devastating to any country or entity that set off the explosions as well as to whoever was targeted. The impacts would be both immediate and long-lasting. That's why having nuclear weapons is the opposite of defense. Why invest in fundamentally unusable weapons when the focus should be on terrorism, cyber-security, public health, and the environment?

I've seen a few disasters personally: the 1987 train crash in Chase, Md (1987), Saudi-Arabia and Kuwait after Gulf War 1, Jamaica post-hurricane. These were major events for me but trivial compared to what a nuclear war would look like.

A nuclear war would be the ultimate public health disaster, with consequences so severe that no medical response could mitigate the devastation. The only viable strategy is prevention.

I understand that passing a Resolution may appear to have minimal effect. But doing so brings attention and awareness to this critical issue. That's how incremental change happens. As Einstein said, *"The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything except the way we think."* It's time for Maryland to join the many others who recognize these threats and will initiate a different approach.

Please vote for HJ6/SJ4. Our children, grand-children, and future generations depend on what we do now.

Dan Morhaim, M.D.

Maryland State Delegate 1995-2019

Carrington 2025 CPSR HJ6SJ4 Use of Nuclear Weapons

Uploaded by: Darrell Carrington

Position: FAV



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Position Statement in Support of HJ6/SJ4 – Use of Nuclear Weapons Resolution

Carrington & Associates, LLC, on behalf of our long-time client, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility (CPSR), strongly supports HJ6/SJ4, the Use of Nuclear Weapons Resolution. CPSR represents more than 900 doctors and public health professionals across Maryland who share a clear and urgent message: *We must prevent what we cannot cure.*

Counties and municipalities across the state have already passed this resolution—it is quite literally the will of the people. Some have called HJ6/SJ4 a “love letter to Congress.” Well, maybe a love letter is exactly what is needed in these mean times. Maryland has always been a bold leader on issues of national importance, and now is the time to reaffirm that leadership by standing up for nuclear non-proliferation and urging the federal government to take action.

A nuclear war would be the ultimate public health disaster, with consequences so severe that no medical response could mitigate the devastation. The only viable strategy is prevention. We urge lawmakers to stand with the medical and public health community and the people of Maryland in supporting this resolution. The health and safety of future generations depend on it.

Please feel free to contact Darrell Carrington, Managing Director, darrell.carrington@verizon.net or 732-763-7398 if you have any questions or require additional information.

SJ0004 CPSR.pdf

Uploaded by: Gwen DuBois

Position: FAV



Committee: Education, Energy and Environment

Resolution SJ0004: Use of Nuclear Weapons

Position: FAVORABLE

Hearing: March 13, 2025

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility (CPSR) supports SJ0004. We are a statewide evidenced-based, organization of over 900 physicians, and other health professionals and supporters, that addresses the existential public health threats: nuclear weapons, the climate crisis and the issues of pollution and toxics' effect on health as seen through the intersectional lens of environmental, social and racial justice. As an organization founded by physicians, we understand that prevention is far superior to treatment in reducing costs; death, illness, injury, and suffering.

There is abundant evidence that the risk of nuclear war is growing. Medical experts warned us. In 2023, over 100 medical journals around the world issued an urgent call for the elimination of nuclear weapons, warning the "danger is great and growing."¹ The Nobel Prize committee warned us. In 2024 it awarded the Peace Prize to an organization of atomic bomb survivors, Nihon Hidankyo, "for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again."² Atomic Scientists warned us when they created the metaphoric Doomsday clock in 1949, and it is now the closest to midnight in its history.³ The arts have warned us with the movie Robert Oppenheimer, and most recently the novel, Nuclear War by journalist Annie Jacobsen, telling a fictional story laced with information about policy that makes the scenario she describes so frightfully plausible.

Policy experts warn about the weaknesses in the theory of deterrence,⁴ the belief that more weapons make us safer. That nuclear war could start by accident is laced through all of these warnings, and it could lead to the starvation of 5 billion people⁵ in the years that follow from nuclear winter regardless of how or why it starts. Imagine the most awful event in the history of

¹ <https://www.bmj.com/content/382/bmj.p1786>

² <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2024/nihon-hidankyo/facts/>

³ <https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/>

⁴ <https://www.bostonreview.net/articles/the-extortionists-doctrine/>

⁵ <https://www.rutgers.edu/news/nuclear-war-would-cause-global-famine-and-kill-billions-rutgers-led-study-finds>

civilization is not an asteroid crashing into earth but the result of a manmade doomsday machine that is launched unintentionally.

For many legislators in our assembly there is the question why should this issue be debated in Annapolis where legislators are being swamped with 3000 bills and a few resolutions about everyday strictly Maryland issues.

Here is my answer to you: we need our state legislators in Maryland to join legislators across the country because you can get the attention of Congresspeople and other federally elected officials in a way that citizens cannot. They hear from the industry lobbyists who directly benefit from contracts to build these weapons but not from the people around the country who would pay the price if the unthinkable happens, not from our children, grandchildren nor the generations to come. In the 90's we met with local officials to get Nuclear Free Zones passed and Mayors to join Mayors for peace. Since 2018, constituents have met with their local legislators who then went on to pass Back from the Brink resolutions like HJ0006 in Baltimore City, the city of Frederick, Montgomery County and Prince George's County.⁶ Now we need you to raise our voice to a higher level. Yes, it is only a resolution. It was only a resolution in California, Oregon, New Jersey, Maine and Rhode Island state assemblies. It is only a resolution being debated in Massachusetts. It was only a resolution that passed in over 80 cities, towns, and counties and states across the U.S that our nation should: initiate multilateral nuclear disarmament talks with the other 8 nuclear nations; renounce being the first to use nuclear weapons and take them off hair trigger alert, a recipe for accidental nuclear war; end the Truman era policy giving the President sole authority to initiate a nuclear launch; halt the \$1.7 trillion overhaul of the entire nuclear triad. Passing HJ0006 in Maryland could inspire legislators in additional states.⁷

President Kennedy, said at the UN in 1961,

"Every inhabitant of this planet must contemplate the day when this planet may no longer be habitable. Every man, woman and child lives under a nuclear sword of Damocles, hanging by the slenderest of threads, capable of being cut at any moment by accident or miscalculation or by madness. The weapons of war must be abolished before they abolish us."⁸

President Reagan and President Gorbachev famously said together in 1985, "nuclear war cannot be won and should never be fought."⁹ This is not a partisan issue.

Chesapeake Physicians urges you to pass SJ0004. There is no cost to this resolution but the benefit is priceless.

Gwen L. DuBois MD, MPH

President

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

⁶ <https://preventnuclearwar.org/municipalities-and-states/>

⁷ <https://preventnuclearwar.org/>

⁸ <https://www.jfklibrary.org/archives/other-resources/john-f-kennedy-speeches/united-nations-19610925>

⁹ <https://europeanleadershipnetwork.org/commentary/the-reagan-gorbachev-statement-background-to-reaffirmourfuture/>

SJ0004, Favorable, JWagner.pdf

Uploaded by: James Wagner

Position: FAV

SJ0004—Use of Nuclear Weapons—March 13, 2025; 1:00 PM, Education, Energy and the Environment Committee Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

Testimony of James P. Wagner, Ph.D., L.E.H.S. on behalf of our new, interdisciplinary organization, Plant the Light

Our favorable testimony focuses particularly on why this is a Maryland State issue. I enumerate these points below.

1) The Federal government is largely not acting, despite the collapse of cornerstone nuclear weapons treaties such as the INF (Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces) Treaty (2019) and Russia suspending its participation in the last remaining Treaty (the New START Treaty) about two year ago, and the looming expiration of this Treaty in less than one year.

2) Given that Federal policy makers are not acting, and given that Marylanders are under an increasing threat from nuclear weapons (see below “Doomsday Clock”), we call on our State and Local Governments to fulfill their obligation to protect their citizens. We want State and Local Governments to step in and do everything within their powers to protect us from the nuclear weapons threat. This Resolution (SJ0004/HJ0006) is an action that our State government can immediately take towards its obligation to protect and serve its citizens.

3) In a sphere of activity where Federal action is lacking or where the activity is ostensibly Federal purview, there is substantial precedent for States taking their own, independent actions. Examples in Maryland include the State minimum wage, our State's RPS renewable portfolio energy standard, and our State's wide-ranging environmental legislation, in which facilities (including Federal facilities) must be permitted by Maryland and must follow Maryland Regulations. Nuclear weapons policy has traditionally been left up to the Federal government, but in the absence of Federal action, it is the obligation of Local and State governments, in service to their citizens, to step in and act.

4) In that vein, across the U.S., there is widespread and growing consensus that state and local governments have this right and obligation– to be engaged in the conversation on nuclear weapons. The updated totals are 77 Municipalities and Counties and 8 state legislative bodies which have already adopted Resolutions similar to SJ0004/HJ0006, and the numbers continue to grow. Please see the [national Back from the Brink home page](#) for more.

5) SJ0004 mirrors a Federal Resolution from the 118th Congress, [H. Res. 77](#), and calls for support of the new version of it, soon to be introduced in the current (119th) Congress. It represents a collaboration between Maryland and the other jurisdictions across the country, as well as the 40+ enlightened members of Congress (those who had endorsed H.Res. 77) to reduce the nuclear threat. The Senate and House of Maryland have every right to make this statement and join in this collaboration. Indeed, with the [Doomsday Clock](#) now at 89 seconds to midnight, and with nuclear weapons cited as a major factor in its recent advancement toward “midnight,” it is the duty of the Maryland Senate and House to join in this collaboration.

6) [The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons \(TPNW\)](#), cited in both State Resolutions, and a centerpiece of the Federal Resolution, was adopted in the UN in 2017, in overwhelming consensus by 122 countries of the world. **There is global consensus that nuclear weapons must be eliminated.** Contact: James P. Wagner with any questions: 240-586-1215, your.james.wagner@gmail.com

2025 - SJ 0004 - Use of Nuclear Weapons.pdf

Uploaded by: Ken Phelps Jr

Position: FAV



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

The Maryland Episcopal
Public Policy
Network

Testimony in Support of SJ 0004

Use of Nuclear Weapons

****FAVORABLE****

TO: Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair; Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair; and the members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

FROM: Rev. Ken Phelps, Jr., Director, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland

DATE: March 13, 2025

In 2022, the General convention of the Episcopal Church, USA passed Resolution 2022-CO 27 which states that “the Episcopal Church renounces the option of using nuclear weapons first and supports pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear armed nations to eliminate their arsenals as established in the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.”

Additionally, the Episcopal Church, following Jesus' commandment to love God with our whole heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves, endorses the goals of organizations such as “Back from the Brink: the Call to Prevent Nuclear War” and the “International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons” and calls on all Episcopalians to continue to work in support of the goal of total nuclear disarmament as expressed in resolution (1997-D022) and the dismantling existing U.S. nuclear weapons (2009-D060).

The Diocese of Maryland requests a favorable report.

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MGA 2025 SJ0004 - USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (Back Fro

Uploaded by: Louis Curran

Position: FAV

MGA 2025: SJ0004 – “USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS” (Back From The Brink) Resolution

Greetings, Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee. I write IN FAVOR OF SJ0004.

My name is Lou Curran. I grew up overseas in a Foreign Service family, came to Baltimore to attend JHU in 1970 and have lived here ever since. A member of the Maryland bar for 44 years, I'm retired but feel obliged while still alive to do what I can to end our other existential crisis, nuclear weapons. I trust you feel the same responsibility to humanity and our planet.

This is truly **a non-partisan issue**. If a nuclear weapon explodes, it will not check for voter ID, race, gender, religion/creed, immigration status, age or sexuality. Everything organic in a broad detonation radius will be incinerated by a massive fireball or destroyed by a gargantuan shock wave. Unlucky survivors will die of untreated injuries or radiation poisoning, and a massive cloud of radioactive soot from countless fires will plume outwards for dozens of miles.

Hiroshima was flattened 80 years ago by **one** 15-kiloton uranium bomb; an estimated 70-140,000 people died. **Nagasaki** was leveled 3 days later by **one** 20-kiloton plutonium bomb and 40-70,000 more died. Our bombs today are up to 80x more destructive, and **we have some 5,400 of them**, roughly half of the nuclear warheads on Earth. Enough detonations would catapult so much soot into upper layers of the atmosphere that models project their accumulation in orbit would obstruct sunlight, lower Earth's temperature and interrupt our food chain long enough to cause the mass starvation of most of humanity worldwide in a so-called “**nuclear winter**”.

Yet we continue to sit on our hands, hoping this won't happen. President **Reagan reversed the first** nuclear arms race in the 1980s, launching treaties that reduced the global arsenal from some 60,000 warheads to about 13,000. But progress has stopped. **A new nuclear arms race is underway**.

Harbor no illusions: **nuclear weapons are illegal** under the Geneva (1864, 1906, 1929 & 1949) and Hague Conventions (1899 & 1907). **Nukes don't discriminate between military combatants and civilian non-combatants**. We must stop making these weapons, get better control over the ones we have, and get negotiations underway with all 9 nuclear-armed nations in earnest, before it becomes even harder to do with 10 nuclear-armed nations, or 11, or 12...

Citizens have been urging our federal government to address this problem for decades, because we mere individuals can't negotiate treaties with foreign countries. Cities and towns have echoed our cry. Initially, hundreds of US communities declared themselves Nuclear Free Zones, including **Garrett Park** (1st in the US), **Mount Rainier, Sykesville, Takoma Park, Baltimore and Wilde Lake**. Since 1982, over 8,472 towns have joined the Mayors For Peace campaign calling for nuclear weapon abolition - including **Cambridge, Easton, Greenbelt, Salisbury, Baltimore and Takoma Park** - but Mayors can't negotiate treaties. Lately, dozens of major cities and counties – including the **City of Frederick, Baltimore City, Montgomery County and Prince George's County** - have passed “Back From The Brink” resolutions very much like this one. To date, eight (8) other statewide legislative bodies in **California, Maine, New Jersey, Oregon & Rhode Island** have passed resolutions like this one. But only our federal government can actually solve this manmade problem. To date, 122 nations have signed and 73 have ratified the **U. N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**, but they can't force the 9 nuclear nations sit down and deal with this. **The Nuclear Nine must lead here**

We're making some progress in Congress. Last Session, 45 Representatives – including Reps. **Jamie Raskin and Glenn Ivey** - cosponsored House Resolution 77, calling for the same federal Executive action that we seek with this resolution. While 45 in the 118th Congress is more than the 11 who cosponsored its precursor in the 117th, or the 10 in the 116th, **it is still far from enough**.

Like every US president since Truman, President Trump has expressed awareness of this problem, talking about “de-nuclearization” at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2025, and declaring at his February 13, 2025 White House press conference that “*There’s no reason for us to be building brand-new nuclear weapons. We already have so many, you could destroy the world 50 times over, 100 times over [...] If there’s ever a time when we need nuclear weapons [...] that’s going to be a very sad day, that’s going to be probably oblivion.*” MIA for 80 years: genuine follow-through.

We must generate that political will in our Executive branch and our Congress to act affirmatively instead of passing the “nuclear football”, literally and figuratively, from one president to the next, and kicking this can down the halls of Congress session after session. **It’s the only missing ingredient.**

Your VOTE FOR SJ0004 will amplify the calls of the thousands of Marylanders who have called on our government to get this albatross off our backs forever, with individual letters, telephone calls, emails and meetings, through resolutions by our religious and faith leaders, and appeals by military and political leaders, Mayors, City and County Councils. **PLEASE REPRESENT US, EMPHASIZE OUR VOICES, SPEAK UP FOR ALL MARYLANDERS, AND HELP PROTECT ALL OF US FROM A NUCLEAR ARMAGEDDON NOBODY WANTS - - VOTE IN FAVOR OF SJ0004.**

Thank you

/s/

Louis Brendan Curran, Esq. (J.D., U. Md. Law, '81)
5115 Underwood Road, Baltimore MD 21212-4107
410-499-8899

1985 Public Spirit Award -- the late Rev. Del. Wendell Phillips' P.N.P. organization
2010 Leadership Award – National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
2018 Fred Bennett Award for Advocacy – Md. Criminal Defense Attorneys Association

Member, Prevent Nuclear War Maryland (PNWMd) coalition
Member, Veterans For Peace, Philip Berrigan Memorial Chapter 105
Member, Grove of Remembrance Restoration Committee, Druid Hill Park, Baltimore
Member, Sierra Club – Maryland chapter
Member, AFSCME – Maryland, Retirees #1
Member, York Road Partnership, Public Spaces & Greening Committee
Member, Radnor-Winston Improvement Association
Member, “War Is Not The Answer”, Marian House annual 5K (2024 top fundraising team)

References / further reading –

Union of Concerned Scientists... www.ucs.org

International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons... www.icanw.org

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament ... www.cnduk.org

Arms Control Association ... www.ArmsControl.org

Back From The Brink... www.PreventNuclearWar.org

Mayors For Peace... www.MayorsForPeace.org

U.S. Presidential statements about nuclear weapons

Uploaded by: Louis Curran

Position: FAV

U.S. Presidential statements re nuclear weapons and war.

“A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.”

Ronald Reagan & **Mikhail Gorbachev** – 1985 - at their summit in Geneva, presaging the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty... reaffirmed by **Joseph Biden** & **Vladimir Putin**, and by **Vladimir Putin** & **Xi Jinping** – June 2021

- - - - -

“[My administration] will seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons... We will immediately and aggressively pursue U.S. ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty... [T]o cut off the building blocks needed for a bomb, the United States will see a new treaty that verifiably ends the production of fissile materials intended for use in state nuclear weapons [Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT)]...”

Barack Obama – 5 April 2009 – at the Prague Conference on nuclear proliferation, leading to the commencement on 10 April 2009 of negotiations with Russia on New START, signed 10 April 2010, ratified by a bipartisan U.S. Senate in December 2010, effective 5 February 2011... Also in 2010, NATO modified its “Strategic Concept” to involve no strategic nuclear warheads in Europe.

- - - - -

“We were talking about the de-nuking, de-nuclearize, de-nuking... and President Putin and I agreed that we were going to do it in a very big way. There’s no reason for us to be spending almost \$1 Trillion on military. There’s no reason for you [sic] to be spending \$400 Billion... China is going to be at \$400 Billion. I’m going to say we can settle this, we can spend this on other things... There’s no reason for us to be building brand-new nuclear weapons. We already have so many, you could destroy the world 50 times over, 100 times over, and here we are building new nuclear weapons, and they’re building nuclear weapons, and China is building nuclear weapons... and China is trying to catch up because they’re very substantially behind but within 5 or 6 years, they’ll be even... And we’re all spending a lot of money that we could be spending on other things that are actually, hopefully, much more productive... Hopefully, there’ll never be a time when we need those weapons. If there’s ever a time when we need nuclear weapons like the kind of weapons that we’re building and that Russia has, and that China has to a lesser extent but will have, uh, that’s going to be a very sad day, that’s going to be probably oblivion.”

Donald Trump – 13 Feb. 2025 White House Press Conference re his discussions with **Putin**

SJ0004 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Lucille Mostello

Position: FAV

SJ0004 Resolution Concerning Nuclear Weapons

As a Marylander, I urge you to pass the Senate Joint Resolution, SJ0004, concerning the Use of Nuclear Weapons. Similar resolutions have been passed by several Maryland cities and counties, including mine, Montgomery County, when citizens campaigned for a five-point plan called Back from the Brink:

1. Negotiating nuclear disarmament with the other 8 nuclear nations, leading to endorsement of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;
2. Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
3. Ending presidential sole authority to initiate a nuclear launch;
4. Taking nuclear weapons off of hair trigger alert;
5. Ending the expensive, destabilizing plans to modernize our nuclear weapons arsenal.

Following this policy will enhance the safety of Maryland residents, all of whom are so close to ground zero, Washington DC, by reducing the risk of nuclear devastation.

As a Catholic and a member of Pax Christi, the Catholic Peace Movement, I cherish the earth as the common home of all people. First, the environmental destruction from even a small nuclear weapon interchange would greatly impair the climate and life support systems, bringing starvation and severe suffering to many of this world. Secondly, the trillions of dollars designated for these deadly nuclear weapons' manufacture, modernization, and maintenance are being stolen from social programs that could address hunger, homelessness and health.

This resolution asks the Maryland legislature to urge the Maryland Congressional representatives, our Senators and the U.S. President to reduce the nuclear threat with practical measures of the Back from the Brink plan.

Pass this resolution and all of Maryland, the people of the world, and the earth, our common home, will benefit from your courage.

Lucille Mostello, M.D.

Gaithersburg, MD

Board member of Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore

MD Back from Brink resolution testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Lucy Duff

Position: FAV

SJ0004 –Use of Nuclear Weapons

March 13, 2025, Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

Position: SUPPORT (FAV) Testimony of Lucy Duff

FOR WITNESS TESTIMONY

In support of a Maryland state Resolution for federal action to Back off the Brink of nuclear weapons, as called for this year in HJ0006, by Delegate Nicole Williams and 27 other House members, and SJ0004 its Senate counterpart, by Senator Clarence Lam:

First, why is this matter put forth as an issue for the states of the US? Several other states along with many local governments see it as such and have passed similar resolutions. Like Marylanders, their voters are also of course US citizens. Moreover, we live here in the shadow of the national capital, a likely target in the event of a nuclear war.

The formal policy in the resolution for no first use would go far toward putting the United States on record as a non-belligerent holder of nuclear weapons.

In its call for removing the President's sole authority to launch a nuclear strike, the resolution this year may cause many to reflect on the trustworthiness of the current incumbent. (So let Maryland join that call, the sooner the better.) Any President, however, might lapse in using rational judgment during a conflict with one or more other nations. This resolution imposes a requirement that the process includes multiple decision-makers; there are practical ways for the process to be so changed.

The resolution does not entail unilateral US action. Rather it calls for our nation to pursue a verifiable agreement among all the nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals. It could thus hasten nuclear disarmament.

By requiring that the US nuclear arsenal be taken off hair-trigger alert, the resolution reduces the risk of its accidental use. An alarming number of near misses of such use have been documented.

The resolution would redirect federal funds currently spent on upgrading US nuclear weapons to programs for meeting social and human needs. In that way it would make a positive contribution to our collective and individual economic security.

Finally, let it be noted that this legislation would impose no financial cost on Maryland state, local governments, businesses or households.

SJR4 - Nuclear Weapons Abolition2.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Keller

Position: FAV

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.

3-13-25 SJ 4 - Use of Nuclear Weapons .pdf

Uploaded by: Nancy Soreng

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE**

SJ 4 - Use of Nuclear Weapons

POSITION: Support

By: Linda T. Kohn, President

Date: March 13, 2025

The League of Women Voter of the United States position on nuclear weapons states that League of Women Voters believes arm control measures are necessary to increase global stability, limit proliferation, prohibit first use of nuclear weapons, inhibit the improvement of weapons and support the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons. The League believes that the United States should vigorously pursue arms-control negotiations in order to ensure that all nations reduce and eventually eliminate their stockpiles of strategic nuclear weapons.

SJ 4 is similar to resolutions that have passed in 7 state legislatures, and 70 counties, and municipalities across the U.S, urging our government to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), now ratified by 70 nations.

This bill requests that that the Maryland General Assembly reach out to members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation urging them to cosponsor a federal resolution related to the use of nuclear weapons and urge the U.S. President and the U.S. Senate to endorse the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

LWVMD strongly requests a favorable report on SJ 4.

Back from the Brink resolution 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Susan Kerin

Position: FAV



SJ04 – Use of Nuclear Weapons

Education, Energy, and the

Environment Committee

March 13, 2025

POSITION: FAVORABLE

[Peace Action Montgomery](#) urges the State of Maryland to join the seven state legislatures, and 70 counties, and municipalities across the U.S, that have sent messages to Congress in support of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), now ratified by 70 nations and the [five policy points](#) of Back from the Brink (BFTB) campaign.

Peace Action Montgomery has nearly 1,500 members and is a chapter entity under national Peace Action, the largest grassroots organization dedicated to eliminating the threat of weapons of mass destruction and promoting U.S foreign policy that is based on peaceful support for human rights and democracy, and cooperation with the world community.

So why should the Maryland legislature take up this issue? We sit in the shadow of the U.S. capitol so, here in Maryland, we are close to ground zero should nuclear war start by error, impulse, or intent and once nuclear missiles are launched, they cannot be recalled. Our tax dollars are going to support 60+ year old policies that are expensive, and dangerous. Marylanders this past year paid over \$2 billion in taxes for the nuclear weapons complex.

Modernizing nuclear weapons does not make us safer. Security would be greater if that money were spent on housing, healthcare, education and addressing climate change. By joining other state legislatures that have passed similar resolutions, we are giving support to our President and federal leaders to re-examine old and dangerous policies.

I hope you will help Maryland contribute to a national effort to urge the policy changes that make the world safer for all of us, including future generations..

There is no fiscal cost. Preventing nuclear war is priceless.

We urge the Education, Energy and Environment Committee to issue a favorable report.

Susan Kerin

Chair, Peace Action Montgomery

susan@peaceactionmontgomery.org

Takoma Park 2025 - SJ 4 FAV - Nuclear Weapons - Se

Uploaded by: Talisha Searcy

Position: FAV



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

Support Senate Joint Resolution 4 - Use of Nuclear Weapons **Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee** **March 13, 2025**

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of this bill, which adopts a “Back from the Brink” resolution aimed at reducing the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons.

The City of Takoma Park is a densely developed, largely residential municipality of almost 18,000 people living within 2.4 square miles in Montgomery County, along the Washington, D.C. border.

Takoma Park has been a nuclear-free zone for over 40 years. The City Council voted unanimously in December 1983 to ban activities involving producing, transporting, storage, disposal, and activation of nuclear weapons within the City, an unprecedented decision at the time for a municipality. As a Nuclear-Free Zone, Takoma Park prohibits work on nuclear weapons and limits harmful exposure to high-level nuclear waste. Additionally, the City urges redirecting resources previously used for nuclear weapons and nuclear power generation towards endeavors which promote and enhance life, such as human services including but not limited to housing, food insecurity, and childcare.

On July 31, 2024, the City of Takoma Park joined over 100 communities and passed a resolution calling for a global effort to prevent nuclear war. . It is in that spirit that we urge Maryland to join seven other states in urging our nation to step “Back from the Brink.” The City of Takoma Park supports joint Senate Joint Resolution 4 and urges a favorable vote.

Testimony SJ 4 - BFTB.pdf

Uploaded by: Terrence Fitzgerald

Position: FAV

Terrence Fitzgerald, MD

1817 Sulgrave Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21209



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.

Terrence Fitzgerald, MD
1817 Sulgrave Ave
Baltimore, MD 21209
TTFitzMD@Comcast.net

Written Testimony for SJ 004_HJ 006_ Use of Nucle

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: UNF

Written Testimony for **SJ 004/HJ 006**: Use of Nuclear Weapons - Please **VOTE NO** on this Joint Resolution.

Dear Education, Energy & the Environment Committee:

I think we can all agree that no one wants a nuclear war - EVER.

That said, this Resolution clearly states that “**WHEREAS**, 90% of nuclear weapons are controlled by the U.S. and Russia, with the rest being controlled by seven other countries: China, France, Israel, India, North Korea, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom...”

It is for this very reason that we need to be the **number one** country in defense. We need to be ready at a split second to respond to threats of mass destruction, due to the very fact that other countries that have had a history of conflict with the United States of America have nuclear weapons and the capability of using them, namely Russia, China and North Korea!! We cannot in any way pull back our ability to respond at the very second we may need to respond to threats from any country that would seek to destroy our country and our people.

Our country can still “...**rely on** the assurances of deterrence, that nuclear arsenals are never used...” without jeopardizing our ability to defend our country by any means possible when a threat of mass destruction would be identified.

The Resolution further states “...**WHEREAS**, The U.S. President has the authority to unilaterally initiate the use of nuclear weapons, and during times of crisis, individuals lower in the chain of command might mistakenly do so...” Please explain why the sponsors of this Resolution, and others, may have the expectation that “... individuals lower in the chain of command might mistakenly...” use or release our nuclear weapons on any other country unless we have no other options to defend our country!! The resolution also states “...**WHEREAS**, The U.S. maintains nuclear missiles on hair-trigger alert, making them capable of being launched within minutes and greatly increasing the risk of an unintended or unauthorized launch, especially in current times when tensions are mounting between nuclear powers and the U.S. maintains the right to initiate a nuclear launch...” Do the sponsors of this resolution and others have so little faith in our system of checks and balances in this country that they truly believe that some random individuals in our government would be

able to “go rogue” and launch a nuclear attack on another country? I certainly do not lack faith in our country and our federal government in this regard!! Otherwise, why even have a federal government if we do not trust that the individuals in it will protect our country and us, as citizens?

This Resolution also states “...**WHEREAS**, Living in the shadow of Washington, D.C., Marylanders are especially at risk if there is nuclear war, making it appropriate that the General Assembly of Maryland urge the federal government to do everything possible to reduce the risk of nuclear war starting by error or by intent...” Again, this is actually the very reason that the United States of America needs to be the **number one country** in the nuclear arms “race”. There are too many threats from other countries and terrorist groups like Hamas, ISIS and others that would wish to annihilate us. We need to be prepared for the very worst. My grandfather used to always say, “Be prepared for the worst and hope for the best.” Very wise advice!!

This resolution also states “...**WHEREAS**, Two major conflicts in 2024 involving nations that possess nuclear weapons make multilateral negotiations between nuclear nations more important now than ever...” Please state what those two major conflicts in 2024 were. Is there more that our government needs to let us know? Are our very lives in danger? Interestingly, these major conflicts were not identified in this Resolution.

This Resolution also advises that “...**WHEREAS**, In July 2017, the United Nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which makes it illegal for ratifying nations to develop, test, produce, manufacture or otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile, transfer, use, or threaten the use of nuclear weapons; and **WHEREAS**, As of September 24, 2024, 73 nations have ratified or acceded to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and **WHEREAS**, House Resolution 77 introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in the 118th Congress embraced the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the five policies of Back from the Brink to: (1) actively pursue a multilateral verifiable agreement among nuclear armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals; (2) renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first; (3) end the President’s sole authority to launch a nuclear attack; (4) take nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; and (5) cancel current plans to replace or modernize its nuclear arsenal...” The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is not a bad thing in and of itself. We, as a nation, have to be extremely careful of agreeing to something such as this Treaty and then receiving intelligence that one of our non-ally countries

has still been developing their nuclear arsenal, and then our country has “dropped the ball” in the defense of our nation and our citizens. Also, did “...House Resolution 77 introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in the 118th Congress...” ever pass Congress? In reviewing “congress.gov”, it appears that the last action of House Resolution 77 from the 118th Congress on 1/31/2023 was that it was “Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.” It does **NOT** appear that this resolution ever passed. Therefore, **House Resolution 77 from the 118th Congress is not valid, nor** are the 5 “Back from the Brink” policies that are mentioned in SJ 004/HJ 006. While I agree that the first two policies of Back from the Brink listed in this resolution, “... (1) actively pursue a multilateral verifiable agreement among nuclear armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals; (2) renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first...” are not bad policies to strive to achieve, the other three policies, “...(3) end the President’s sole authority to launch a nuclear attack; (4) take nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; and (5) cancel current plans to replace or modernize its nuclear arsenal...” are essential to keep our country and its citizens safe.

Therefore, I am humbly requesting that you **VOTE NO** on this Resolution to show all Marylanders that you put our safety first!!

Please **VOTE NO** on being “...RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General Assembly of Maryland joins the seven state legislative bodies in Rhode Island, Maine, Oregon, California, and over 75 municipalities and counties, including Baltimore County, Frederick County, Washington, D.C., Montgomery County, and Prince George’s County, in passing a Back from the Brink resolution...”; and being “...RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation to cosponsor a new resolution in the 119th Congress that embraces the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the Back from the Brink resolution...”; and being “...RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges the U.S. President and the U.S. Senate to endorse the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons...”.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation in this matter.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals

Disapprove.pdf

Uploaded by: William Mauer

Position: UNF

I do not support this bill,