

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