

## **HJ0006 Resolution Concerning Nuclear Weapons**

As a Marylander, I urge you to pass the House Joint resolution, HJ0006, 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