

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

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By: **Senators A. Washington, Smith, Lam, and Muse**

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Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Anti-Nuclear Proliferation Resolution**

3 FOR the purpose of stating that the General Assembly joins certain other state legislative
4 bodies, counties, and municipalities in passing a Back from the Brink resolution on
5 reducing the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons; urging members of the State's
6 Congressional Delegation to cosponsor a certain federal resolution related to the use
7 of nuclear weapons; and urging the U.S. President and the U.S. Senate to endorse
8 the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

9 WHEREAS, Nuclear weapons are the most destructive weapons ever created by
10 mankind; and

11 WHEREAS, 90% of nuclear weapons are controlled by the U.S. and Russia, with the
12 rest being controlled by seven other countries: China, France, Israel, India, North Korea,
13 Pakistan, and the United Kingdom; and

14 WHEREAS, The use of even a small fraction of nuclear weapons, such as 100
15 Hiroshima-sized bombs, which are small bombs by modern standards, could put at least
16 5.5 million tons of soot into the atmosphere and cause climate disruption across the planet,
17 cutting food production and putting 250 million people at risk of starvation; and

18 WHEREAS, A large-scale nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions of people
19 directly, risk starvation for 5 billion people worldwide including in the U.S., and cause
20 unimaginable environmental damage and catastrophic climate disruption by dropping
21 temperatures across the planet to levels not seen since the Ice Age, causing the vast
22 majority of the human race to starve and possibly cause humans to become extinct as a
23 species; and

24 WHEREAS, The U.S. and Russia rely on the assurances of deterrence, that nuclear
25 arsenals are never used, and yet there have been many close calls due to human or
26 mechanical error; and



1 WHEREAS, The U.S. President has the authority to unilaterally initiate the use of
2 nuclear weapons, and during times of crisis, individuals lower in the chain of command
3 might mistakenly do so; and

4 WHEREAS, The U.S. maintains nuclear missiles on hair-trigger alert, making them
5 capable of being launched within minutes and greatly increasing the risk of an unintended
6 or unauthorized launch, especially in current times when tensions are mounting between
7 nuclear powers and the U.S. maintains the right to initiate a nuclear launch; and

8 WHEREAS, The ongoing expenditure of \$1.7 trillion over 30 years to enhance the
9 U.S. nuclear arsenal is fueling a global arms race; and

10 WHEREAS, Despite the incredible expenditure on nuclear weapons, one in six
11 military families are food insecure; and

12 WHEREAS, Marylanders paid an estimated \$2.1 billion in taxes in fiscal year 2024
13 for the nuclear weapons complex; and

14 WHEREAS, Living in the shadow of Washington, D.C., Marylanders are especially
15 at risk if there is nuclear war, making it appropriate that the General Assembly of
16 Maryland urge the federal government to do everything possible to reduce the risk of
17 nuclear war starting by error or by intent; and

18 WHEREAS, Two major conflicts in 2025 involving nations that possess nuclear
19 weapons make multilateral negotiations between nuclear nations more important now than
20 ever; and

21 WHEREAS, In July 2017, the United Nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition
22 of Nuclear Weapons which makes it illegal for ratifying nations to develop, test, produce,
23 manufacture or otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile, transfer, use, or threaten the use
24 of nuclear weapons; and

25 WHEREAS, As of September 24, 2025, 74 nations have ratified or acceded to the
26 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and

27 WHEREAS, House Resolution 77 introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives
28 in the 118th Congress embraced the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition
29 of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the five policies of Back from the Brink to: (1) actively
30 pursue a multilateral verifiable agreement among nuclear armed states to eliminate their
31 nuclear arsenals; (2) renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first; (3) end the
32 President's sole authority to launch a nuclear attack; (4) take nuclear weapons off
33 hair-trigger alert; and (5) cancel current plans to replace or modernize its nuclear arsenal;
34 now, therefore, be it

35 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General
36 Assembly of Maryland joins the seven state legislative bodies in Rhode Island, Maine,
37 Oregon, California, and over 75 municipalities and counties, including Baltimore County,

1 Frederick County, Washington, D.C., Montgomery County, and Prince George's County, in
2 passing a Back from the Brink resolution; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges members of the
4 Maryland Congressional Delegation to cosponsor a new resolution in the 119th Congress
5 that embraces the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
6 and the Back from the Brink resolution; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges the U.S. President and
8 the U.S. Senate to endorse the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
11 Legislative Services to the Governor of Maryland; the President of the Senate of Maryland;
12 the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and the Maryland Congressional Delegation; and
13 be it further

14 RESOLVED, That certified copies of this Joint Resolution be sent by the Secretary
15 of State to: the President of the United States of America; the Vice President of the United
16 States, President of the United States Senate; the President Pro Tempore of the United
17 States Senate; the United States Senate Majority Leader; the United States Senate
18 Minority Leader; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; and the
19 United States House of Representatives Minority Leader.