

Dear Maryland Delegates on Rules Committee:

The Cuban missile crisis was in October of 1962. Our family lived in a small town in Michigan. We, like thousands of other Americans, knowing that there was a threat of nuclear war, decided to build a bomb shelter in the basement. My father was a polio victim and used crutches and a wheelchair at home. Thus, as the oldest son, at age 12, I was tasked with carrying most of the 300 to 400 cement blocks from outside to the basement. Thankfully we never needed to use the shelter for a nuclear war though we did use it several times when there were tornado warnings.

If we want to minimize the threat of nuclear war, all of the five steps that are described in HJ3 seem obvious: Three steps are crucial: 1) renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons; 2) taking nuclear weapons off of hair-trigger alert; and 3) ending the President's sole authority to launch a nuclear strike.

Please support HJ3 which encourages our Congressional delegation to support HR77 which asks our government to endorse the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which would move the USA from being a leader in the nuclear arms race, to one committed to lowering the risks of nuclear war.

Thank you for listening.

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