

Terrence Fitzgerald, MD

1817 Sulgrave Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21209



SJ 4 – Back from the Brink Hearing in Senate E, E, and E Committee - MARCH 12, 2025 Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

Chair Feldman, Vice-chair Kagan, and members of the Rules Committee.

Thank you for your time and your attention.

I am Dr Terry Fitzgerald - a physician, an officer 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.

My grandfather was born in the 19th century. My youngest grandchild reaches my age on the eve of the 22nd century.

My grandfather could tell me about his father, who had come to the US because of the desperate situation in Ireland after the potato famine. All of my ancestors were Irish. But my brothers and I married women whose ancestors were German, Czech, and Ashkenazi Jews. Our own children are married to people whose parents and grandparents were Welsh, Italian, Norwegian, and Haitian. I like to talk about this classic American family story and how this diversity brings together the strengths of so many traditions, making the US the unique nation that it is.

I like to tell that story. But I fear that my grandchild, as we reach the 22nd century, will not be able to tell his story and certainly that his grandchild will not be able to, and all that history will be lost – because I have a very real fear that our civilization will not exist at that time – unless we make changes in the way we behave now.

Global thermonuclear war would certainly end civilization as we know it. Even a “limited” regional nuclear war could have devastating effects on the climate and destabilize societies around the world. Even if the risk of nuclear war at any one time is quite small, the risk over the next 73 years becomes very real. It is hard to express how terrible this prospect is; and yet we just keep letting it be, as if we had no agency whatsoever.

We look upon you senators as our representatives, our spokespeople. Through SJ 4 we ask you, as our representatives, to speak to the federal government, calling on it to take certain common-sense steps to reduce the risk of nuclear war without reducing our defensive capabilities one bit. We ask you to do this now because now is the only time that there is. In addition, turning this ship of destiny to a new direction will take years, as have all arms control negotiations. We should begin this task now, before we travel further in this risky direction.

Speaking as a physician I remind you of this principle of public health: **We must prevent what we cannot cure.**

Speaking 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.

Please give a **FAVORABLE REPORT on HJ 7.**