



Committee: Education, Energy and Environment  
Resolution SJ004: Anti-Nuclear Proliferation Resolution (Back from the Brink Act)  
Position: FAVORABLE  
Hearing: March 12, 2026

**Baltimore Hebrew Congregation** supports SJ004 which urges our government to adopt simple policy changes that would reduce the risk of nuclear war. That is important to the congregants of Baltimore Hebrew Congregation. In June of 2019, Baltimore Hebrew Congregation passed a resolution addressing these crucial issues for our community, our state, and the entire planet.

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation was established in 1830 and **is the oldest synagogue in the state of Maryland and the third-oldest existing in the country.** We are a congregation of 1000 families.

Today there are over 12,000 nuclear weapons, most far more destructive than those that killed over 200,000 people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The detonation of even a small number of these weapons could have catastrophic human and environmental consequences that could affect everyone and every living thing on the planet.

Our Jewish tradition tells us: Bal Tashchit, we must not destroy everything. We must beat swords into plowshares, "For this commandment which I command you this day is not too hard for you, nor too remote..I have set before you this day life and good, or death and evil." (Deuteronomy 30:11,15)

In the US, over 350 organizations have joined the "Back from the Brink Campaign" to make intentional or accidental nuclear war less likely. It has been endorsed by over 75 cities, towns, and counties including Baltimore. Endorsing national religious groups include faith groups like United Church of Christ, Presbyterian Church, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, Soka Gakkai International -USA Buddhist Association, Unitarian Universalist Association, Pax Christi, AFSC.

Therefore, we, the members of Baltimore Hebrew Congregation urge the Maryland Assembly, the House of Delegates and the State senate to pass HJ7 and SJ4, joint resolutions to reduce the risk of nuclear war by endorsing the 5 policy recommendations of the "Back from the Brink" campaign. That our voice may be added to the movement from civil society, that government leaders must change policy and choose life that we all may live.

Rabbi Andrew Busch  
Senior Rabbi  
Baltimore Hebrew Congregation