

Written Testimony in Support of Senate Resolution SJ004
SJ004 Anti-Nuclear Proliferation Resolution/Favorable
Committee: Education, Energy and Environment
Hearing Date: March 12, 2026

SJ004 calls on the United States to reduce the risk of accidental nuclear war and to begin moving toward eventual participation in the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The resolution urges our government to take several practical steps:

- Pursue a verifiable, multilateral agreement among nuclear-armed nations to eliminate their nuclear arsenals
- Renounce the first use of nuclear weapons
- End the unchecked, sole authority of any U.S. president to launch a nuclear strike
- Take U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert
- Cancel plans to replace the entire U.S. arsenal with new, enhanced nuclear weapons

Momentum for these measures is growing. A similar resolution in Congress (H.Res.317) has been co-sponsored by more than 50 Representatives, including Maryland members Jamie Raskin, Johnny Olszewski, John Delaney, Glenn Ivey, and Kweisi Mfume. In the Senate, S.Res.323 is sponsored by Senator Chris Van Hollen and co-sponsored by Senator Angela Alsobrooks.

Across the country, eight state legislatures and more than 80 local governments have adopted similar “Back from the Brink” resolutions. In Maryland, Baltimore City, Frederick, Takoma Park, Montgomery County, and Prince George’s County—home to roughly 43% of Maryland’s population—have already acted.

Maryland has a direct stake in this issue. Because of our proximity to Washington, D.C., our state would be among the first and most severely affected if a nuclear weapon struck the nation’s capital—whether by error, miscalculation, or intent. Once launched, nuclear missiles cannot be recalled. The catastrophic injuries and loss of life that would follow would be borne largely by Maryland communities and emergency systems.

Beyond the immediate devastation, even a limited nuclear war could trigger global famine and mass starvation affecting billions of people. Maryland’s local governments, our U.S. senators, and several members of Congress have already supported the principles embodied in this resolution. SJ004 allows the Maryland General Assembly to add its voice to this urgent call to reduce nuclear danger.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to give **SJ004 a favorable report.**

Donna Hoffmeister