

Written Testimony

Committee: Education, Energy, and Environment

Resolution: SJ0004 – Anti-Nuclear Proliferation Resolution

Position: FAVORABLE

Hearing: March 12, 2026

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Danny Hall**, and I am submitting this testimony **in strong support of SJ0004**. I am a Maryland resident and serve as the Lead Capitol Hill Representative & Faith Community Outreach Coordinator for the Back from the Brink coalition, and our work focuses on reducing nuclear risks and advancing policies that keep Maryland communities safe.

Back from the Brink is a national grassroots movement built around a simple truth: nuclear weapons are not just a foreign-policy issue — they are a human-survival issue. For decades, we treated nuclear danger as something we could “manage,” but the historical record tells a different story. Near-misses, false alarms, miscalculations, and individual acts of restraint — not systems — have prevented catastrophe. Nuclear risk has never been manageable, and today that risk is rising. That is why we support SJ0004: because reducing nuclear danger now and pursuing the long-term elimination of nuclear weapons are part of the same strategic responsibility.

Why SJ0004 Matters

SJ0004 urges the federal government to take practical, widely supported steps to reduce the risk of nuclear war and move the world toward long-term safety. These steps reflect the national “Back from the Brink” platform and include:

1. Actively pursuing a verifiable, multilateral agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals
2. Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first
3. Ending the sole, unchecked authority of any U.S. President to launch nuclear weapons
4. Taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert
5. Canceling plans to replace the entire U.S. nuclear arsenal with new, enhanced weapons
6. Maintaining the global moratorium on explosive nuclear testing

These are common-sense, risk-reduction measures supported by national security experts, faith communities, public-health leaders, and local governments across the country.

Alignment with Federal Efforts

Congress is already considering similar measures.

- **H.Res.317** in the U.S. House has 53 cosponsors, including Maryland Representatives Raskin, Olszewski, Delaney, Mfume, and Ivey.
- **S.Res.323** in the U.S. Senate is led by Senator Van Hollen, with Senator Alsobrooks as a cosponsor.

These resolutions are the clearest expression of a long-term vision that treats the elimination of nuclear weapons not as idealism, but as a national-security requirement. They connect immediate steps — like No First Use, ending sole presidential authority, and taking weapons off hair-trigger alert — to the long-term goal of eliminating nuclear weapons. SJ0004 allows Maryland to add its voice to this growing national effort.

Maryland's Unique Stake

Maryland is not a distant observer. We live next to the U.S. Capitol, the Pentagon, and multiple federal agencies that would be primary targets in any nuclear exchange. If a nuclear weapon were detonated in Washington, D.C., the mass casualties, infrastructure collapse, and long-term fallout would overwhelmingly affect Maryland communities. Once launched, nuclear missiles cannot be recalled. Prevention is the only meaningful protection — and prevention begins with policy.

Nuclear war is not only a regional threat; it is a global catastrophe. Beyond the immediate loss of hundreds of millions of lives, scientific research shows that even a limited nuclear conflict could trigger a “nuclear winter,” causing worldwide crop failures and mass starvation affecting billions.

Marylanders Are Already Paying the Price

Last year, Maryland taxpayers contributed **over \$2.4 billion** to the U.S. nuclear weapons complex. These funds do not make us safer. Redirecting even a fraction of this spending toward housing, healthcare, education, and climate resilience would strengthen Maryland far more than new nuclear weapons ever could.

Broad Support Across the Country — and Across Maryland

Eight state legislatures have passed similar Back from the Brink resolutions. More than 80 local governments nationwide have done the same — including Baltimore City, Frederick, Takoma Park, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County. Together, these jurisdictions represent **43% of Maryland's population**. Marylanders want their state to speak with moral clarity and practical urgency.

Conclusion

SJ0004 is a responsible, forward-looking resolution that reflects Maryland's values and our unique proximity to nuclear decision-making. It urges the federal government to adopt policies that reduce the risk of nuclear war and protect Maryland families, our economy, and future generations.

I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a FAVORABLE report for SJ0004.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Danny

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