

Testimony in favor of SJ0004, the Anti-Nuclear Proliferation Resolution

March 10, 2026

I am a Maryland resident who has long been deeply concerned about the threat nuclear weapons pose to humanity. I grew up in the 1980s and remember the fears of nuclear war that were pervasive then. I also remember the extraordinary relief and hope inspired by the end of the Cold War, when the nuclear threat seemed to diminish dramatically.

Having lived through the end of the Cold War, I have been saddened and frightened by how the nuclear threat has gradually become more severe in recent decades. We have seen the emergence of renewed conflict between the two nations with the largest nuclear weapons arsenals, the United States and Russia. We have seen tensions and rivalry grow between the United States and another nuclear-armed nation, China. We have seen hostilities between India and Pakistan that raise the possibility of a nuclear exchange. We have seen how North Korea might provoke a nuclear crisis. In the past few weeks, we have seen two nuclear-armed nations, the United States and Israel, attacking a third nation, Iran, that may be trying to develop its own nuclear arsenal.

While tensions among nuclear-armed nations have grown, the international agreements meant to restrain a nuclear arms race and reduce the nuclear threat have been disintegrating. Over the last 25 years, important treaties such as the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, the Open Skies Treaty, and now the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty have all been discarded. The danger of unrestrained nuclear competition is all too real today.

Given the current danger, we need Americans, especially elected officials at all levels of government, to speak out about the nuclear threat. We need voices that will raise awareness of the terrible danger looming over humanity and advocate for prudent policies that will protect human life against that danger.

SJ0004 plays an important role in the effort to check the nuclear threat. By endorsing a Back from the Brink Resolution and calling on the Maryland Congressional Delegation, the Senate, and the president to act against the nuclear threat, SJ0004 helps to build the national and global movement necessary to counter the threat from nuclear weapons.

I would strongly urge the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to pass SJ0004 and so advance its progress in the Maryland Senate. Thank you.

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