



SJ0004 - SUPPORT  
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SJ0004 – Anti-nuclear Proliferation Resolution (Back from the Brink Resolution)

Meeting of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

March 12, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee, on behalf of Elders Climate Action Maryland, I urge a favorable report on SJ0004, the Back from the Brink Resolution.

Elders Climate Action is a nationwide organization devoted to ensuring that our children, grandchildren, and future generations have a world in which they can thrive. The Maryland Chapter has members across the state.

As our name suggests, we focus primarily on climate change, but we are not blind to other existential threats. Our members grew up in the shadow of the threat of nuclear war. A few remember the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Most of us remember the Cuban Missile Crisis. Many remember “duck and cover” drills, signs for fallout shelters in public buildings, and even 4H projects on how to build your own fallout shelter in your basement or backyard. My mother assiduously wiped off the top of every can of food to try to keep Strontium 90 from nuclear testing out of our meals.

As adults, we realized how pointless those preparations were. We learned about the devastation a nuclear war would bring from films like “The Day After.” Carl Sagan and other scientists taught us about nuclear winter and the other almost unimaginable environmental damage that would follow even a limited nuclear war. We also learned about the huge expenditures to maintain and even grow our nuclear arsenal and the terrifying possibility of an accidental nuclear war.

When the Cold War ended, most of us thought that threat was behind us. Recent events, such as the end of the New START treaty and wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, have made it increasingly clear that we were wrong. If we want our children and grandchildren to have a future, we must change course.

One step we can take in that direction would be passing the Back from the Brink resolution. It urges our Federal government to:

- Actively pursue a verifiable multilateral agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals
- Renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first
- End the sole, unchecked authority of any U.S. President to launch a nuclear weapon
- Take U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert
- Cancel the plan to replace the entire U.S. nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons
- Maintain the global moratorium on explosive nuclear testing.

This resolution has already been adopted by eight states and over 80 local governments, including the cities of Baltimore, Frederick, and Takoma Park, and Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

There is a similar resolution in Congress. H. Res. 317 has 54 cosponsors, including Representatives Raskin, Olszewski, Mfume, and Delaney. S. Res. 323 has Senator Van Hollen as an original sponsor and Senator Alsobrooks as a co-sponsor.

Maryland can't prevent a nuclear war, but we can help lead the way. We strongly urge a favorable report on SJ0004, the Back from the Brink Resolution.

Thank you.