



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

SJ 4 Anti-Nuclear Proliferation Resolution (Back from the Brink Act)

POSITION: Support

By: Linda Kohn

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The League of Women Voters of the United States' position on nuclear weapons states "League of Women Voters believes arm control measures are necessary to increase global stability, limit proliferation, prohibit first use of nuclear weapons, inhibit the improvement of weapons and support the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons. The League believes that the United States should vigorously pursue arms-control negotiations in order to ensure that all nations reduce and eventually eliminate their stockpiles of strategic nuclear weapons."

This resolution requests that the Maryland General Assembly reach out to members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation urging them to cosponsor a federal resolution related to the use of nuclear weapons and urge the U.S. President and the U.S. Senate to endorse the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This resolution would urge our government to reduce the risk of accidental nuclear war and work to create a pathway to joining the U.N. Nuclear Ban treaty with the other nuclear nations in the future by:

- Actively pursuing a verifiable multilateral agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals
- Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first in a nuclear attack
- Ending the sole, unchecked authority of any U.S. President to launch a nuclear attack
- Taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert
- Cancelling the plan to replace the entire U.S. nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons
- Maintaining the global moratorium on explosive nuclear testing.

We also ask that members of the MDGA thank Congressmen Raskin, Olszewski, Delaney and Mfume for co-sponsoring (H.Res.317) and Senator Van Hollen (original sponsor) and Senator Alsobrooks(co-sponsor) for their support of S.Res.323. The League has submitted testimony supporting this resolution for a number of sessions. Given today's global circumstances, this is more important than ever.

LWVMD strongly requests a favorable report on SJ 4.

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