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Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 12, 2026

The Honorable Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Maryland State Senate  
Annapolis, Maryland

**Re: SJ4 –Anti-Nuclear Proliferation Resolution**

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of SJ4, legislation that calls on the United States federal government to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war and to adopt policies that reduce the risk of accidental, miscalculated, or intentional nuclear use.

This bill urges the federal government to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war, and this resolution aligns Maryland with the national “Back from the Brink” framework supported across the country. We are now 85 seconds to midnight on the Doomsday Clock, the closest we have ever been since scientists created it in 1947. That assessment reflects rising geopolitical tensions, renewed nuclear modernization, and the erosion of arms control agreements. If just one nuclear bomb hit the capital, casualties in Maryland would be catastrophically high, and the federal government would not be able to aid us.

The United States is projected to spend nearly \$1 trillion over the next decade on nuclear weapons programs, and up to \$2 trillion over the long term to modernize bombs, missiles, submarines, and related systems. Maryland taxpayers contribute to that spending, and in FY 2025, that cost was over \$2.4 billion.

These are weapons that can never be safely used. The economic tradeoffs are real. Every dollar directed toward nuclear expansion is a dollar not invested in public health, infrastructure, education, and community resilience.

This bill expresses that the Maryland General Assembly supports the notion that preventing nuclear war must be a national priority and that practical steps to reduce risk should be pursued, including renewed arms control efforts and policies that lower the chance of miscalculation.

Maryland has long taken leadership positions on matters of public health and human security. At a time when global tensions are high and the margin for error is thin, it is appropriate for this body to speak clearly about the catastrophic humanitarian and economic consequences of nuclear war.

SJ4 does not mandate any state spending, nor does it attempt to control federal defense policy. Preventing nuclear war is not partisan. It is a matter of survival, fiscal responsibility, and moral clarity.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Joint Resolution 4.

With Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alonzo T. Washington', written in a cursive style.

Alonzo T. Washington  
Maryland State Senate  
District 22