

SJ004 is important because it would put the state of Maryland on record, along with several other states, as supporters of a national campaign to reduce the threat of nuclear war.

This resolution would urge our government to reduce the risk of accidental nuclear war and hopefully create a pathway to joining the U.N. Nuclear Ban treaty with the other nuclear nations in the future by:

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 a nuclear weapon

4) Taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert

5) Cancelling the plan to replace the entire U.S. nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons

6) Maintaining the global moratorium on explosive nuclear testing.

There is a similar Congressional resolution in the House (H.Res.317) cosponsored by over 50 Representatives, including Congressmen Raskin, Olszewski, Ivey, Delaney and Mfume from Maryland. In addition, there is a resolution in the Senate, S.Res.323. Senator Van Hollen is an original sponsor and Senator Alsobrooks is a co-sponsor.

SJ4 in the State Senate and HJ7 in State House of Delegates, a joint resolution, deserves your support: Back from the Brink statements urge our federal government to make common sense changes to reduce the risk of nuclear war.

Eight state legislatures have passed similar “Back from the Brink” resolutions, as have over 80 local governments across the country. In Maryland, Baltimore City, the city of Frederick, Takoma Park, Montgomery County and Prince George's County- representing where some 43% of Marylanders live- have passed BFTB resolutions. Maryland residents have made it clear they want to add their voices to this growing call for sanity.

Why should lawmakers for Marylanders take this up? Besides concern for national security, **we sit in the shadow of the U.S. Capital.** Here we would be close to ground zero should a nuclear war start by error, impulse, or intent. If just one nuclear bomb hit Washington, the federal government would not be able to come to our aid. The mass injuries and deaths would be a local issue. That is why prevention must be a local issue.

It is also a global issue because nuclear war, in addition to causing hundreds of millions of deaths immediately, could create a nuclear winter leading to mass starvation of 6 billion people within 2 years, including in the U.S. <https://www.rutgers.edu/news/nuclear-war-would-cause-global-famine-and-kill-billions-rutgers-led-study-finds>

For these reasons, two county and three city councils in Maryland, along with both MD US Senators and five of our Representatives in Congress, have registered support for Back from the Brink resolutions.

Marylanders this past year paid over \$2.4 billion in taxes for the nuclear weapons complex. Modernizing nuclear weapons does not make us safer. Security would be greater if that money were spent on housing, healthcare, education and changes to reduce the consequences of floods and heat waves. Please help Maryland contribute to a national effort to urge the policy changes that make the world safer for all of us, including future generations. **CURRENT EVENTS MAKE THIS RESOLUTION MORE URGENT THAN EVER.**

Maryland Peace Action group strongly urges the committee to give a favorable report for SJ004.