

**A resolution of the state of Maine calling on the US government to lead
a global effort to prevent nuclear war**

WHEREAS, global arsenals have over 14,000 nuclear weapons, and most are far more destructive than those that killed hundreds of thousands of people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945;

WHEREAS, the detonation of even a small number of these weapons anywhere in the world could have catastrophic human, environmental, and economic consequences that could affect everyone on the planet including Maine;

WHEREAS, a large scale nuclear war would likely kill hundreds of millions of people directly and cause unimaginable environmental damage, producing conditions wherein billions of people would likely die from starvation or disease;

WHEREAS, the United States maintains nuclear missiles on hair-trigger alert, capable of being launched within minutes after a presidential order, which greatly increases the risk of an accidental, mistaken or unauthorized launch;

WHEREAS, the United States, as well as Britain, China, France and Russia, are obligated under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to take concrete steps toward eliminating their nuclear arsenals;

WHEREAS, in July 2017, 122 nations approved the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which makes it illegal under international law to develop, test, produce, manufacture, or otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

WHEREAS, United States taxpayers spend over \$4 million every hour of every day on US nuclear weapons, and the planned expenditure of more than \$1.2 trillion over the next 30 years to operate and enhance the U.S. nuclear arsenal will exacerbate nuclear dangers by fueling a global arms race and diverting crucial resources needed to assure the well-being of Maine people;

WHEREAS, in 2017 Maine taxpayers as a whole averaged \$192.33 per capita, with the state collectively paying an estimated \$257 million in 2017 federal taxes toward the cost of producing, deploying and maintaining nuclear weapons;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State of Maine calls on the United States government to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

1. renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
2. ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack;
3. taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
4. cancelling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons; and
5. actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to each member of Maine's congressional delegation.