

**JOINT RESOLUTION
MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO LEAD A GLOBAL
EFFORT TO PREVENT NUCLEAR WAR (Res # 803 2023)**

WE, your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Maine now assembled in First Regular Session, most respectfully renew our petition to the President of the United States and the United States Congress as follows:

WHEREAS, global arsenals have more than 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; and

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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, statesmen such as William Perry, Henry Kissinger, and Robert McNamara have warned repeatedly that the nuclear arms race is at its most dangerous point ever; and

WHEREAS, the current war in Ukraine, along with Vladimir Putin's threat to use nuclear weapons in that conflict, has further increased the danger; and

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

WHEREAS, the United States, as well as the United Kingdom, France, China, and Russia, are obligated under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to take concrete steps toward eliminating their nuclear arsenals; and

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; and

WHEREAS, in January 2021, 50 nations had ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, thereby bringing it into effect as international law; and

WHEREAS, United States taxpayers spend over \$5.6 million every hour of every day on nuclear weapons and the projected expenditure of \$1.7 trillion over the next thirty years to operate and enhance the United States nuclear arsenal will exacerbate nuclear dangers by fueling a global arms race and diverting crucial resources needed to ensure the well-being of Maine people; and

WHEREAS, Maine taxpayers currently average \$269 per capita, with the state collectively paying \$360 million per year, in federal taxes toward the cost of producing, deploying, and maintaining nuclear weapons; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That We, your Memorialists, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to renew our call on the President of the United States and the United States Congress to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by renouncing the option to use nuclear weapons first, ending the sole, unchecked authority of the president to launch a nuclear attack, taking United States nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, canceling the plan to replace the country's entire arsenal with enhanced weapons and actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.