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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. _____

Urging the United States to lead the world back from the brink of nuclear war and halt and reverse the nuclear arms race.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MCGOVERN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Urging the United States to lead the world back from the brink of nuclear war and halt and reverse the nuclear arms race.

Whereas, since the height of the Cold War, the United States and Russia have dismantled more than 50,000 nuclear warheads, but some 12,000 nuclear weapons still exist and pose an intolerable risk to human survival;

Whereas the United States and Russia, which possess an estimated 95 percent of these weapons, have a special responsibility to meet their obligations under Article VI of the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to “pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date

and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control”;

Whereas President Ronald Reagan said in his January 1984 State of the Union Address that “A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. The only value in our two nations possessing nuclear weapons is to make sure they will never be used. But then would it not be better to do away with them entirely?”;

Whereas, according to scientific studies and models, the use of even a tiny fraction of these weapons could cause worldwide climate disruption and global famine by lofting millions of tons of soot into the upper atmosphere, which would cause climate disruption across the planet, cutting food production and putting hundreds of millions of people worldwide at risk of death due to famine;

Whereas, according to numerous scientific studies and models, a large-scale nuclear war would kill hundreds of millions of people directly and cause unimaginable physical destruction and environmental damage, including even more severe catastrophic climate disruption due to lower temperatures across the planet not seen since the last ice age;

Whereas, during the course of the nuclear age, there have been technical miscalculations, misinterpretations of adversary behavior, and crises that have led to numerous nuclear near-misses that could have led to nuclear war;

Whereas the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and the Kremlin’s repeated explicit threats to use nuclear weapons have significantly increased the risk of nuclear weapons use;

Whereas tensions elsewhere in the world, including between the United States and China over Taiwan and the South China Sea, ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, and the chronic security crisis on the Korean Peninsula, constitute other possible flashpoints for nuclear war;

Whereas, on October 6, 2022, President Biden said, “I don’t think there’s any such thing as an ability to easily use a tactical nuclear weapon and not end up with Armageddon.”;

Whereas the United States retains a Cold War-era nuclear declaratory policy that allows for the first use of nuclear weapons against nonnuclear threats under “extreme” circumstances and retains a launch-under-attack posture that unnecessarily compresses Presidential decision time to launch nuclear weapons within minutes, thereby creating conditions that increase the risk of unintentional or accidental nuclear war;

Whereas, in 2023, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that current plans to modernize, upgrade, and maintain United States nuclear forces, as described in the fiscal year 2023 budget and supporting documents, would cost \$756,000,000,000 over the 2023–2032 period, which was \$122,000,000,000 more than CBO’s 2021 estimate for the 2021–2030 period;

Whereas, in October 2017, CBO estimated that the Nuclear Modernization Plan to upgrade and enhance nearly every element of the nuclear arsenal of the United States would result in costs of more than \$1,200,000,000,000 over the following 30 years, not adjusting for inflation;

Whereas Republican and Democratic administrations have negotiated multiple agreements with the Russian Federa-

tion that have reduced their total nuclear stockpiles by more than 80 percent since their Cold War peaks, but in recent years have withdrawn from other global treaties and agreements that have provided global stability and helped prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, including the 1987 Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty;

Whereas the 2022 Nuclear Posture Review states that “[m]utual, verifiable nuclear arms control offers the most effective, durable, and responsible path to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in our strategy and prevent their use”;

Whereas the 2010 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which is the last remaining treaty limiting the size of United States and Russian strategic nuclear arsenals, will expire on February 5, 2026, and in the absence of agreed following constraints, each side could significantly increase the number of deployed warheads, thereby accelerating an unconstrained, costly, and dangerous global nuclear arms race;

Whereas, on July 7, 2017, 122 nations voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which prohibits the possession, use, testing, stationing, or transfer of nuclear weapons and creates an important legal framework for the elimination of all nuclear weapons and entered into force on January 22, 2021; and

Whereas the United States suspended nuclear explosive testing in 1992, successfully led the negotiation of the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which has been signed by 187 countries including the United States and the other P-5 nuclear powers, and has effectively put an end to nuclear test explosions, which can be used by

newer nuclear powers with the means to prove new war-head designs: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives calls on
2 the President to—

3 (1) actively pursue a world free of nuclear
4 weapons as a national security imperative; and

5 (2) lead a global effort to move the world back
6 from the nuclear brink, halt and reverse a global nu-
7 clear arms race, and prevent nuclear war by—

8 (A) engaging in good faith negotiations
9 with the other 8 nuclear armed states to halt
10 any further buildup of nuclear arsenals and to
11 aggressively pursue a verifiable and irreversible
12 agreement or agreements to verifiably reduce
13 and eliminate their nuclear arsenals according
14 to negotiated timetables, and, in particular,
15 pursuing and concluding new nuclear arms con-
16 trol and disarmament arrangements with the
17 Russian Federation to prevent a buildup of nu-
18 clear forces beyond current levels, and engaging
19 with China on mutual nuclear risk reduction
20 and arms control measures;

21 (B) leading the effort to have all nuclear-
22 armed states renounce the option of using nu-
23 clear weapons first;

1 (C) implementing effective checks and bal-
2 ances on the Commander in Chief's sole author-
3 ity to order the use of United States nuclear
4 weapons;

5 (D) ending the Cold War-era "hair-trigger
6 alert" posture, which increases the risk of cata-
7 strophic miscalculation in a crisis;

8 (E) ending plans to produce and deploy
9 new nuclear warheads and delivery systems,
10 which would reduce the burden on United
11 States taxpayers;

12 (F) maintaining the de facto global mora-
13 torium on nuclear explosive testing;

14 (G) protecting communities and workers
15 affected by nuclear weapons by fully remedi-
16 ating the deadly legacy of environmental con-
17 tamination from past and current nuclear weap-
18 ons testing, development, production, storage,
19 and maintenance activities, and by providing
20 health monitoring, compensation, and medical
21 care to those who have and will be harmed by
22 nuclear weapons research, testing, and produc-
23 tion, including through an expanded Radiation
24 Exposure Compensation Act program; and

1 (H) actively planning a just economic tran-
2 sition for the civilian and military workforce in-
3 volved in the development, testing, production,
4 management, and dismantlement of nuclear
5 weapons and for the communities that are eco-
6 nomically dependent on nuclear weapons labora-
7 tories, production facilities, and military bases.