Nuclear Weapons

Urge Congress to:

* **PASS GOOD** policies and legislation.
* **DEFEAT BAD** policies and legislation.

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***Very few of the U.S. Senators and Representatives from Washington State are supporting these good bills.***

**SUPPORT:**

**SUPPORT H. Res. 302 to support the goals of the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of our national security policy.**

In July 2017 the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly passed the treaty with 122 “YES” votes out of more than 190 nations in the General Assembly. That’s about 2/3 of the world’s nations. All nine nations that have nuclear weapons opposed the treaty. The next step is for nations to use their respective national processes to sign on to it and then to ratify it. By August 9, 2020, 44 nations had actually ratified it. When 50 nations have ratified it, the Treaty will become effective as a part of international law.

The enormous victory at the United Nations General Assembly in 2017 was accomplished by a worldwide non-profit organization, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN, [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)) which educates and informs the public and press about nuclear weapons developments, the impact of nuclear weapons and efforts to prohibit these weapons of mass destruction. ICAN’s accomplishment won them the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.

ICAN’s website ([**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)) includes much information about relevant facts, their activities, etc. They have worked – and continue to work – at the grassroots all around the world. They encourage local governments to pass resolutions supporting the Treaty (the TPNW), and a growing number have done so, including some of the U.S.’s states and cities. The Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons is one of many organizations worldwide that is formally joining ICAN.

Here is a list of cities that have supported the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: [**https://cities.icanw.org**](https://cities.icanw.org/). This next link explains how to get your city to support it: [**www.icanw.org/how\_to\_join\_the\_ican\_cities\_appeal**](http://www.icanw.org/how_to_join_the_ican_cities_appeal)

Representatives Jim McGovern and Earl Blumenauer are the prime sponsors of H. Res. 302.

**SUPPORT the “No First Use” bills:**

The U.S. Constitution explicitly states that only Congress can declare war. However, since 1945 presidents have claimed the power to start the most horribly destructive war possible without congressional approval, and Congress has allowed that unconstitutional power to persist. We must restore the Constitution no matter who is president.

* **S.200 and H.R. 669 are companion bills.** (This means they have the same wording as each other.) Senator Markey and Rep. Lieu introduced Senate and House legislation (S. 200 and H.R. 669) that would prohibit any U.S. President from launching a nuclear first strike without a declaration of war by Congress. (It does allow immediate retaliation if another nation has launched nuclear weapons at the U.S.).
* **S. 272 and H.R. 921 are companion bills.** (These two bills share the same wording as each other.) Instead of requiring a declaration of war by Congress, these bills are short and simply but explicitly prohibit “first use.” Each of these two bills is only 12 words long: **“It is the policy of the United States to not use nuclear weapons first.”**

**Mobilize public SUPPORT for “No First Use” bills:**

We need more co-sponsors and more members of Congress to vigorously support these four bills. The public is on our side, so let’s mobilize public opinion to pass these bills!

**We can make more progress toward preventing nuclear war if we know that public opinion OPPOSES “First Use.” The fact sheet linked here provides useful information that can help us devise strategies for reaching out to move the public:** [**https://rethinkmedia.org/sites/default/files/ReThink%20Media%20-%20P%26S%20Public%20Opinion%20-%20No%20First%20Use\_0.pdf**](https://rethinkmedia.org/sites/default/files/ReThink%20Media%20-%20P%26S%20Public%20Opinion%20-%20No%20First%20Use_0.pdf)

**SUPPORT H. Res. 302 (see top of page 1, above). SUPPORT the entire “Back from the Brink” package of five smart changes to public policy to reduce the danger of nuclear war (see box below).**

H. Res. 302 calls on the President to embrace the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of U.S. national security policy. It also calls for the U.S. to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war.

In 2017 two nationwide organizations – the Union of Concerned Scientists ([**www.ucsusa.org**](http://www.ucsusa.org)) and Physicians for Social Responsibility ([**www.psr.org**](http://www.psr.org)) – created the **“Back from the Brink”** campaign ([**www.preventnuclearwar.org**](http://www.preventnuclearwar.org)) to promote a smart proposal of five public policy changes that would significantly reduce the likelihood of nuclear war. Many other organizations (nationwide and local, including the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) have joined the effort.

The **“Back from the Brink” campaign** recognizes problems and **proposes five practical solutions:**

We call on the United States 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 U.S. president to launch a nuclear attack

3. Taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert

4. Cancelling the plan to replace its entire nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons

5. Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals

The “Back from the Brink” campaign is pushing our federal government to take these five practical steps for peace. It also is urging local efforts to push local governments, faith communities, non-profit organizations, and other entities to support the five points in the “Back from the Brink” campaign. Their website, [**www.preventnuclearwar.org**](http://www.preventnuclearwar.org), includes information about these five points and also practical resources that people can use to organize and seek co-sponsors. See [**www.preventnuclearwar.org/resources**](http://www.preventnuclearwar.org/resources). **House Resolution 302 includes all 5 of their points.**

**SUPPORT S. 312, the Prevention of Arms Race Act would restrict funds for weapons previously banned by the INF Treaty.**

Trump has officially withdrawn from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which Reagan and Gorbachev had signed in 1987, to reduce the likelihood of nuclear war in Europe. Now Trump is building nuclear weapons that the INF treaty had banned. On January 31, 2019, S. 312 was introduced and would restrict that funding. Twelve U.S. Senators (including Patty Murray of WA) are co-sponsoring S. 312 to restrict that funding. We must stop a new nuclear arms race!

**SUPPORT renewing the “New START” Treaty, so it will not expire in February 2021. Trump is   
obstructing it with phony conditions. Congress must urge Trump to act reasonably, responsibly.**

Russia has been complying with it, and Russia says it will continue complying with it so long as the U.S. does not let it expire. On December 5, 2019, Russian President Vladimir Putin offered to unconditionally extend New START, the last remaining restraint on U.S.-Russian nuclear arsenals. The 2010 treaty caps deployed offensive strategic nuclear weapons to no more than 1,550 each, and Russia’s full compliance with the pact has been certified by U.S. intelligence agencies and the Department of State. New START will expire in February 2021 unless Washington and Moscow decide to extend it, which can be done by a simple executive agreement. We must urge Trump – and **urge Congress to pressure Trump** – to extend the Treaty through 2026. See more information at [**https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/NewSTART**](https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/NewSTART)

🡪 See the next page for a list of things to OPPOSE.

**OPPOSE:**

**OPPOSE the complete replacement of ALL nuclear weapons, missiles, submarines, bombers. The cost will horribly exceed the 1.2 TRILLION DOLLARS proposed. Nearly $2 TRILLION cost is likely!**

President Obama wanted the Senate to ratify the New START Treaty, but Senate Republicans refused, so in order to get their support, Obama ironically promised to completely replace all of the U.S.’s nuclear weapons, including warheads, missiles, submarines, and bomber airplanes with all new ones that would be horribly expensive and much more dangerous! Congress has been wasting our tax dollars on this now – and will continue to waste our tax dollars for decades to come, but now Trump seems determined to let the New Start Treaty expire in February 2021. Ironically the nuclear weapons Obama approved will continue to be built even if the treaty expires. We must DEMAND that Congress stop this reckless, unnecessary project and stop wasting our tax dollars on that reckless, destabilizing new nuclear arms race!

**OPPOSE funding for various specific nuclear weapons. Congress keeps voting to waste our tax dollars on nuclear weapons that endanger the world. Stop the madness!**

“Low-yield” nuclear weapons make nuclear war more likely! In Dec. 2019 Congress funded the recklessly provocative W76-2 nuclear warhead for Trident submarines. The House had removed funding for deploying them, but the Senate added the funding back in, and Congress passed the funding in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). I posted information about this to my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org), at this link: [**www.parallaxperspectives.org/congress-funds-recklessly-provocative-low-yield-nuclear-weapons-that-make-it-easier-to-start-an-all-out-nuclear-war**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org/congress-funds-recklessly-provocative-low-yield-nuclear-weapons-that-make-it-easier-to-start-an-all-out-nuclear-war) Also see this fact sheet produced by the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action: [**www.gzcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/W76-2-Fact-Sheet-rev.-2019-12-13.pdf**](http://www.gzcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/W76-2-Fact-Sheet-rev.-2019-12-13.pdf)

**OPPOSE nuclear weapons funding and dangers that are sneaked into other legislation.**

In late July, 2020, Senate Republicans released their latest proposal for coronavirus relief, but buried in that 177-page document are **$30 BILLION for their weapons of war wish list (fighter jets, helicopters, missile defense systems, etc., some of which are nuclear-related.) While Republicans are short-changing ordinary people, they’re using the pandemic as an excuse to throw an additional** $30 BILLION for Pentagon pet projects completely unrelated to COVID-19. URGENT: Click this link to tell House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to reject this scam and exclude it from the final bill: [**https://act.winwithoutwar.org/act/pelosi-reject-senate-covid-relief?source=em20200729&t=6&akid=6380%2E372126%2EMSz526**](https://act.winwithoutwar.org/act/pelosi-reject-senate-covid-relief?source=em20200729&t=6&akid=6380%2E372126%2EMSz526)

**OPPOSE Trump's plan to spend MANY, MANY BILLIONS of dollars on a new nuclear arms race.**

A new article by historian Lawrence Wittner (whom we brought from New York to Olympia a decade ago for a speaking engagement) explains Trump’s plan for a HUMONGOUS amount of new spending on nuclear weapons. A few years ago Trump publicly called for an all-out nuclear arms race with Russia and China because he said he wants to overwhelm them with many billions of dollars of spending for new nuclear weapons – and spend so much that those countries will not be able to afford to keep up with the U.S. Wittner recently wrote an article with important new information about this: [**https://beyondnuclearinternational.org/2020/07/26/the-big-spender-we-dont-need/**](https://beyondnuclearinternational.org/2020/07/26/the-big-spender-we-dont-need/) (Of course, the U.S.’s reckless spending for nuclear weapons will require cutting funding for domestic programs that people and the environment really need.

**OPPOSE Trump's Space Force, which is wasteful, reckless and dangerous in many ways, but Democrats help Republicans fund it anyway.**

The Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space ([**www.space4peace.org**](http://www.space4peace.org)) is an amazingly informative resource. Their quarterly print publication ***Space Alert!*** contains accurate information you do not see elsewhere. I encourage people to subscribe to their e-mail alerts, and I also recommend Bruce Gagnon’s blog, which you can see through the organization’s website. Other people – including Karl Grossman, one of the world’s top experts on this – have written that the U.S.’s militarization of space is very aggressive. He wrote, “The plan is in motion, the U.S. is leading the pack to weaponize space, and ever so ‘innocently’ accuses its primary competitors of doing what Washington itself is doing.” See his June 30, 2020, article here: [**www.nationofchange.org/2020/06/30/the-aggressive-defense-space-strategy**](http://www.nationofchange.org/2020/06/30/the-aggressive-defense-space-strategy/)

Now NATO has allowed the U.S. to “weaponize” space for a new nuclear arms race. Trump’s new branch of the U.S. military – the “Space Command” and NATO’s recent blessing – probably violates the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, which prohibits introducing any weapons, including nuclear weapons, into space: [**www.opednews.com/articles/US-Weaponizing-Space-in-Bi-by-Finian-Cunningham-China\_Military\_NATO\_Putin-191213-406.html**](http://www.opednews.com/articles/US-Weaponizing-Space-in-Bi-by-Finian-Cunningham-China_Military_NATO_Putin-191213-406.html)

**PREVENT Trump from testing nuclear weapons after a very long absence of testing.**

In mid-2020 Trump said he wants to start testing nuclear weapons again. I signed the following message to Congress and I hope you will too. Let’s convince our members of Congress to immediately halt plans for nuclear weapons testing and extend and expand recognition, compensation, and medical care for the many people who have been hurt by nuclear weapons activities. Click this link to sign the message to Congress: [**https://secure.ucsusa.org/onlineactions/7I7eYpQ8-k6DQvGIMF4lFg2?ms=TAF**](https://secure.ucsusa.org/onlineactions/7I7eYpQ8-k6DQvGIMF4lFg2?ms=TAF) In July 2020 this appeal to our U.S. Senators came out, and I hope you will sign it to urge them to support critical legislation to stop future nuclear weapons testing: [**https://www.peaceaction.org/get-involved/action-alert-no-to-renewed-nuclear-testing/?emci=a7f2ffb4-61c1-ea11-9b05-00155d03bda0&emdi=0c6143f1-e1c1-ea11-9b05-00155d03bda0&ceid=230149**](https://www.peaceaction.org/get-involved/action-alert-no-to-renewed-nuclear-testing/?emci=a7f2ffb4-61c1-ea11-9b05-00155d03bda0&emdi=0c6143f1-e1c1-ea11-9b05-00155d03bda0&ceid=230149) Also, the very reputable Arms Control Association strongly opposes nuclear testing now: [**https://www.armscontrol.org/issue-briefs/2020-07/congress-should-take-nuclear-testing-option-table**](https://www.armscontrol.org/issue-briefs/2020-07/congress-should-take-nuclear-testing-option-table)

**PREVIOUS INFORMATION:**

**In 2019 peace supporters urged Congress to pass the “Hold the LYNE” Act (S. 401) to prohibit the development and deployment so-called “low-yield” nuclear explosives (LYNE). Unfortunately, Congress funded those reckless, provocative new nuclear weapons.**

These recklessly dangerous nuclear weapons would be somewhat smaller than the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs – not really “small.” They would deceive presidents and the Pentagon into thinking they could use them at a modest scale, but actually they would quickly escalate into all-out nuclear war! If another nation saw a Trident nuclear submarine launch a missile at them, they would NOT assume that it’s a “low-yield” nuke. They would have to assume the worst (a big nuke) and retaliate by launching their big nukes against the U.S.

The House zeroed-out funding for the LYNE in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). But later the House added the funding back in and passed the funding. Now some “low-yield” nuclear warheads have already been deployed on some Trident nuclear submarines and are in the oceans.

**Here are THREE RESOURCES about this:**

* The first link below is a fact sheet about the W76-2 nuclear warhead for the Trident nuclear submarines. The fact sheet was produced by the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action.   
  See it here: [**https://www.gzcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/W76-2-Fact-Sheet-rev.-2019-12-13.pdf**](https://www.gzcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/W76-2-Fact-Sheet-rev.-2019-12-13.pdf)
* See this article from *The Guardian*  about low yield nuclear weapons: **https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/28/us-nuclear-weapons-first-low-yield-warheads-roll-off-the-production-line**
* Also, I have posted information about this to my blog, www.parallaxperspectives.org. See this: [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/congress-funds-recklessly-provocative-low-yield-nuclear-weapons-that-make-it-easier-to-start-an-all-out-nuclear-war**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/congress-funds-recklessly-provocative-low-yield-nuclear-weapons-that-make-it-easier-to-start-an-all-out-nuclear-war)

🡪 See the next page for more sources of information.

**MORE INFORMATION:**

A great many excellent source of information about nuclear weapons exist at global, national, regional and local levels. Here are just a few:

- See the “Nuclear Weapons” part of Glen Anderson’s blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). The direct link is [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/nuclear-weapons**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/nuclear-weapons)

- Connect with the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which meets every month and organizes strategically smart activities in the Olympia WA area. Contact us and/or join our informative e-mail list at: (360) 491-9093 [**glenanderson@integra.net**](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net)

- Connect with our statewide coalition, Washington Against Nuclear Weapons ([**www.wanwcoalition.org**](http://www.wanwcoalition.org)) (206) 547-2630

- Immediately next to the Trident nuclear submarine base at Bangor in Kitsap County WA is the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, [**www.gzcenter.org**](http://www.gzcenter.org) (360) 930-8697

- The Arms Control Association is an excellent source of information. This link provides many fact sheets and other information: [**www.armscontrol.org/factsheets**](http://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets)

- “Blundering Toward Nuclear Chaos” -- This 101-page report explains that Trump's nuclear weapons decisions have seriously hurt the world’s safety. The sponsoring organization – Global Zero ([**www.globalzero.org**](http://www.globalzero.org)) – is a credible source that I support. Here is the link where you can read it online or print it:  **<https://www.globalzero.org/blundering-toward-nuclear-chaos-2020/?link_id=3&can_id=1d662460c0abb8939c5044c82927552b&source=email-critical-mass-march-2020-news-from-global-zero-5&email_referrer=email_826110&email_subject=critical-mass-june-2020-news-from-global-zero>**