At a time when we hope to pursue nuclear de-escalation and non-proliferation, going forward with a totally new nuclear weapons system, the Navy Sea-Launched Cruise Missile (N-SLCM,) would be a step in the wrong direction. If legislation proposed by Senator Chris Van Hollen and Rep. Joe Courtney is passed, this dangerous plan can be stopped.

There has long been bi-partisan opposition to putting nuclear-tipped cruise missiles on surface ships alongside conventional, non-nuclear cruise missiles. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush tabled the sea-launched nuclear cruise missile program. In 2013, President Barack Obama also ended the N-SLCM program.

But then President Donald Trump reinstated the N-SLCM program, despite the obvious danger that deploying nuclear and conventional cruise missiles together on ships would pose. Trump also ignored the bad consequences of continuing to blur the line between nuclear and conventional weapons.

In addition to being unwise and dangerous, N-SLCM's projected costs would be $9 billion, which would take precious resources away from other pressing needs like working against climate change and reinvesting in infrastructure.

Senator Chris Van Hollen and Representative Joe Courtney are introducing legislation to prohibit research, development, production, and deployment of Navy Sea-Launched Cruise Missiles. Please ask your Senators and Representatives to co-sponsor and vote in favor of S595 and HR 1554.