Nuclear Weapons

Urge the U.S. government to:

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

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Updated to May 9, 2021

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

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Our goal is to ABOLISH nuclear weapons.** Let’s keep that in mind (and support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and other bold proposals), even while we take interim steps of passing laws and changing policies to eliminate certain kinds of weapons and reduce the likelihood of nuclear war.

**Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW):**

This historically powerful treaty was approved by an overwhelming majority (122 of 193 nations) in the United Nations General Assembly in July 2017 and became available for nations to ratify it. The 50th nation ratified it on October 24, 2020, so it went into effect on January 22, 2021, for all nations that have ratified it (54 nations as of today). None of the 9 nations that have nuclear weapons – and no NATO nations – have ratified it.

The worldwide non-profit organization that has been promoting the TPNW is the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICANW, [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)). ICAN educates and informs the public, the press and governments about nuclear weapons developments, the impact of nuclear weapons and efforts to prohibit these weapons of mass destruction. ICAN’s accomplishments 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 been working globally and at the grassroots level 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.

See this list of cities that have supported the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: [**https://cities.icanw.org**](https://cities.icanw.org/).

Here is 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)

**Support H.R. 2850, which calls for abolishing nuclear weapons and converting our nation’s economy accordingly:**

Several House members have co-sponsored H.R. 2850. Ask your U.S. Representative to support H.R. 2850 and also sign the ICAN Pledge: See information about the Pledge and writing your Representative – and your state legislators – at this link: [**http://www.nuclearban.us/nationalmap/**](https://nuclearban.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c7f770704865f02b5250b0715&id=0813e5f636&e=09869790ec) See more information at [**www.NuclearBan.US**](http://www.NuclearBan.US)

### These resources provide more information and support:

* [**Building Political Support for the TPNW**](https://nuclearban.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c7f770704865f02b5250b0715&id=d572ea37dc&e=09869790ec)
* [**Webinar – Dec 16th: Entry Into Force of the Nuclear Ban Treaty: What Does It Mean for the US?**](https://nuclearban.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c7f770704865f02b5250b0715&id=031d672e54&e=09869790ec)Click the link to watch the recording of this webinar.
* [**http://www.nuclearban.us/personal-treaty-compliance/**](http://www.nuclearban.us/personal-treaty-compliance/)

**Prevent funding new land-based missiles. Support S. 982 and H.R. 2227:**

For many decades nuclear Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) have been installed in missile silos in the U.S., especially in north central states. These nuclear weapons are ready to launch on a hair-trigger alert. Now the U.S. government wants to replace these with all new nuclear warheads and all new missiles. They have created a new name for these, the “Ground Based Strategic Deterrent” (GBSD).

A growing number of people recognize that those missiles are not necessary. Peace folks lambaste the GBSD as the “Money Pit Missile” because of their horribly huge cost. Senator Markey and Representative Khanna have introduced legislation to stop the funding. Their legislation has a clever name, “the ICBM Act,” which stands for “Investing in Cures Before Missiles,” because it would stop the funding and use the savings to fund health care.

**See these information resources about the GBSD:**

* **S.982 in the Senate**
* [**H.R. 2227 in the House**](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2227?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR+2227%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=1)
* The bill’s text is [**here**](https://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/%283.26.2021%29%20ICBM%20Bill%20Text.pdf).
* Here is a one-page fact sheet on the bill: [**https://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/(3.26.2021)%203.23.21%20ICBM%20Act%20One%20Pager.pdf**](https://www.markey.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/%283.26.2021%29%203.23.21%20ICBM%20Act%20One%20Pager.pdf)
* See more information through Peace Action ([**www.peace-action.org**](http://www.peace-action.org)). Their Groundswell Blog has links to articles and reports on the Money Pit Missile. Please read and share the resources here: [**https://www.peaceaction.org/2021/03/17/stop-the-new-nuclear-weapons-money-pit-missile/**](https://www.peaceaction.org/2021/03/17/stop-the-new-nuclear-weapons-money-pit-missile/)

**More information about telling Congress to oppose funding these new missiles:**

In Congress, opposition has been growing to a new generation of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs). These new missiles would actually increase the danger of nuclear war by accident. Fixed silo locations make them vulnerable to attack, so in a crisis there would be pressure to launch them because of the “*use them or lose them*” logic, so a false alarm could cause them to be launched.

The Air Force and military weapons manufacturers are lobbying intensely for the new missiles, and the outcome is still in doubt. Now Senator Markey (D-MA) and Rep. Khanna (D-CA) have introduced a bill to cancel the funding for the new ICBMs, and transfer the money to support vaccine research against coronavirus variants and other pandemic threats. Markey’s bill has the clever name, the “Invest in Cures Before Missiles Act” (ICBM Act, S. 982).

Tell your Senators (preferably in your own words): We should NOT spend hundreds of billions on new missiles which would actually increase the risk of war. Please co-sponsor and support Senator Markey’s Invest in Cures Before Missiles Act (S. 982).

**Please contact your own U.S. Senators and Representative.** Here is the contact information for both of Washington State’s U.S. Senators and for the new U.S. Representative in the 10th Congressional District, serving the Olympia-Tacoma area. ALL THREE OF THEM seem quite willing to continue the expensive nuclear arms boondoggles, so it is important that we contact them and tell them to OPPOSE the GBSD. **Please contact and educate them.**

* Senator Patty Murray: (202) 224-2621 (Press 3 to bypass her long greeting and leave a message.) Write to her through her website, [**www.murray.senate.gov**](http://www.murray.senate.gov)
* Senator Maria Cantwell: (202) 224-3441 Write to her through her website, [**www.cantwell.senate.gov**](http://www.cantwell.senate.gov)
* Representative Marilyn Strickland: (202) 225-9740 Write to her through her website, [**www.strickland.house.gov**](http://www.strickland.house.gov)

**Stop funding for Sea-Launched Cruise Missiles (SLCM). They are recklessly provocative and could easily start an all-out nuclear war. Pass S 595 and HR 1554 (the Nuclear-SLCM Ban Act of 2021) to stop that new nuclear weapon system:**

Cruise missiles are extremely provocative!  They fly low in order to avoid being detected by radar, so they threaten other nations with almost no time to decide whether to immediately retaliate against us. This provocation is very likely to cause missiles to be launched against the U.S.

It even worse to arm a cruise missile with a nuclear warhead.  Putting sea-launched cruise missiles offshore from another nation would be even more provocative.  The other nation would have very few minutes to decide whether to retaliate immediately against the U.S.  They would feel the pressure to launch their missiles before the U.S.’s nuclear-tipped cruise missile destroys the other nation’s missiles while still in their silos.

Years ago, Sea-Launched Cruise Missiles (SLCMs) were proposed, but Congress and previous presidents wisely prevented the plans from moving forward.  Then Trump came along and revived plans for SLCMs.  Biden and Congress seem to be continuing that plan, but **WE MUST STOP THAT PLAN before it gets any more funding and before plans are locked into place**.

Our statewide coalition, Washington Against Nuclear Weapons (WANW, [**www.wanwcoalition.org**](http://www.wanwcoalition.org)) and our local Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons strongly oppose SLCMs.

**Urge Congress to PREVENT ANY FUNDING or approvals for this incredibly reckless, provocative scheme. PASS S 595 and HR 1554. Please contact Congress and alert the public. WANW produced this information:**

At a time when we hope to pursue nuclear de-escalation and non-proliferation, a new nuclear weapons system, the Nuclear Sea-Launched Cruise Missile (N-SLCM) would be a step in the wrong direction.

We urge you to co-sponsor the Nuclear-SLCM Ban Act of 2021 and vote in favor of S 595 and HR 1554.

Decades of bi-partisan efforts have halted nuclear-tipped, and conventional non-nuclear missiles being placed on the same deployed surface ships. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush tabled the Nuclear Sea-Launched Cruise Missile program. In 2013, President Barack Obama ended the N-SLCM program.

But then President Donald Trump reinstated the N-SLCM program, despite the catastrophic risks of placing nuclear and non-nuclear missiles on the same surface vessels.

In addition to being unwise and dangerous, N-SLCM's projected costs of $9 billion would take precious resources away from addressing other critical needs.

Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md) and Representative Joe Courtney (D-Conn) introduced the Nuclear-SLCM Ban Act, legislation to prohibit research, development, production, and deployment of Nuclear Sea-Launched Cruise Missiles. We urge you to co-sponsor and vote in favor of S 595 and HR 1554.

**Use this information from another peace organization to urge your House member to co-sponsor H.R. 1554 to ban Sea-Launched Cruise Missiles (SLCMs):**

This bill prohibits the use of funds for the research and development, production, or deployment of the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile and its associated nuclear warhead.  The projected cost of $9 billion for SLCM could be used for health concerns, including COVID-19.

The U.S. Navy is pushing ahead with building a **Trump-initiated, completely unnecessary new ship-based nuclear weapon**.

It’s a nuclear weapon that FOUR previous administrations (starting with the older Pres. George H.W. Bush) prevented from being built. President Obama actually retired this nuclear weapon entirely — because we ALREADY have thousands of nuclear weapons deployed on submarines, fighter jets, and heavy bombers. In fact, experts say that besides being a colossal waste of money that accelerates a global nuclear arms race, **it also sets the stage for a catastrophe by putting nuclear weapons on ships alongside non-nuclear missiles.**

Congress can — and must — stop these nuclear weapons in their tracks. Representative Joe Courtney, chair of the House Armed Services Seapower Subcommittee, and Senator Chris Van Hollen agree. That’s why they’ve introduced a bill to cut off funding before this disaster-in-waiting goes any further.

Click this link to tell your U.S. Representative to co-sponsor H.R. 1554 to prevent any funding this completely unnecessary and provocative new nuclear weapon: [**https://act.winwithoutwar.org/act/stop-new-navy-nuke?source=em20210312&t=6&akid=6839%2E827791%2El7uKWi**](https://act.winwithoutwar.org/act/stop-new-navy-nuke?source=em20210312&t=6&akid=6839%2E827791%2El7uKWi)

**OPPOSE the so-called “modernization,” which is a euphemism for a provocative escalation of the nuclear arms race – the complete replacement of ALL nuclear warheads, missiles, submarines, and bombers. The cost will horribly exceed the 1.2 TRILLION DOLLARS proposed. It would very likely cost nearly $2 TRILLION!**

President Obama wanted the Senate to ratify the New START Treaty, but Senate Republicans refused, so in order to get their support, Obama (who had recently called for abolishing nuclear weapons) ironically promised to **completely replace ALL of the U.S.’s nuclear weapons**, including warheads, missiles, submarines, and bomber airplanes with new ones that would be horribly expensive and much more dangerous! Congress has been wasting our tax dollars on nuclear weapons and now is funding even more unnecessary and wasteful spending for decades to come.

We must DEMAND that Congress stop this unnecessary project and stop wasting our tax dollars on that reckless, destabilizing new nuclear arms race! Some of the legislation mentioned in this document are part of this reckless, horribly expensive package. We must STOP ALL of these weapons programs! Urge Congress and President Biden to OPPOSE funding for various specific nuclear weapons. Congress keeps voting to waste our tax dollars on nuclear weapons that endanger the world.

Already, other nations are building new weapons in an attempt to match the U.S. Instead of provoking an escalating a new nuclear arms race, we must STOP the madness now!

**OPPOSE nuclear weapons programs that are sneaked into other legislation:**

It is common for Congress members to sneak into “must-pass” legislation some amendments that do bad things. Some of those provide sweetheart deals for “special interests.” Some provide funding or other special deals for topics that – on their own merits – would not pass Congress in stand-alone bills. Examples include funding for stupid military weapons projects. Watch out for examples such as this:

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 have been short-changing ordinary people, they used the pandemic as an excuse to throw an additional** $30 BILLION for Pentagon pet projects completely unrelated to COVID-19.

**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 (nuclear war) without congressional approval, and Congress has allowed that unconstitutional power to persist. We must restore the Constitution and close the *de facto* nuclear loophole!

Rep. Adam Smith (Chair of House Armed Services Committee) and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (a member of Senate Armed Services Committee) introduced **“No First Use”** legislation – **H.R. 2603 and S. 1219** – to establish in law that the U.S. policy is to not use nuclear weapons first.

**The bill is only 12 words long: “It is the policy of the United States to not use nuclear weapons first.”**

The ***No First Use Act*** would strengthen U.S. national security by:

- Reducing the risk of miscalculation or misunderstanding by an adversary during a crisis that could lead to nuclear use

- Strengthening our deterrence and increasing strategic stability by clarifying our declaratory policy

- Preserving the U.S. second-strike capability to retaliate against any nuclear attack on the U.S. or its allies

Smith stated: “The United States should never initiate a nuclear war. … This bill would strengthen deterrence while reducing the chance of nuclear use due to miscalculation or misunderstanding. Codifying that deterring nuclear use is the sole purpose of our nuclear arsenal strengthens U.S. national security and would renew U.S. leadership on nuclear nonproliferation and disbarment.”

Warren stated: “Threatening to use nuclear weapons first makes America less safe because it increases the chances of a miscalculation or an accident. There are no winners in a nuclear war, and the US should never start one -- I am glad to reintroduce this bill with Chairman Smith to commit the US to not using nuclear weapons first.”

Urge your U.S. House and Senate members to pass [**H.R. 2603**](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2603?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22nuclear%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=1) and [**S. 1219**](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1219?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22S.+1219%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=1). These are the new bill numbers.

Also, Rep. Ted Lieu introduced **H.R. 669** into the 2021 Congress, the “Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2021.” Sen. Ed Markey introduced **S. 1148**, the companion bill.

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

We need more members of Congress to co-sponsor and vigorously support these “No First Use” bills. Many Americans mistakenly think “No First Use” is already U.S. policy. **The public actually wants “No First Use,” so it should be easy to mobilize strong public opinion to pass these bills!**

**We can make more progress toward preventing nuclear war if we recognize that public opinion ALREADY WANTS “No First Use.” The fact sheet linked here provides useful information that can help us devise strategies for reaching out to move the public to pressure Congress to pass these bills:** [**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)

**Use this TOOLKIT to promote the “No First Use” bills:** [**https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZBNdu89yUsWyTs\_YivexUDhOdDBx\_QohdknSLEdULXI/edit**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZBNdu89yUsWyTs_YivexUDhOdDBx_QohdknSLEdULXI/edit)

**Click these TWO LINKS to urge your member of Congress to support the “No First Use” bills:**

* [**https://beyondthebomb.org/campaigns/tell-your-representative-to-support-no-first-use-hold-the-lyne-and-restricting-nuclear-first-use/?link\_id=0&can\_id=1d662460c0abb8939c5044c82927552b&source=email-now-is-our-moment-write-your-rep-about-no-first-use&email\_referrer=email\_1144012\_\_\_subject\_1524296&email\_subject=now-is-our-moment-write-your-rep-about-no-first-use**](https://beyondthebomb.org/campaigns/tell-your-representative-to-support-no-first-use-hold-the-lyne-and-restricting-nuclear-first-use/?link_id=0&can_id=1d662460c0abb8939c5044c82927552b&source=email-now-is-our-moment-write-your-rep-about-no-first-use&email_referrer=email_1144012___subject_1524296&email_subject=now-is-our-moment-write-your-rep-about-no-first-use)
* [**https://secure.everyaction.com/51e3kjnW4kGaia8LVDZxzw2?contactdata=3vtPqExB7PBdXY0dOTOVtzFIPuJNH%2fV14SJ9qawf6%2boRmnMUWMaPOQdI%2fZzvkHTnP49BAMEWbu9Hu0pva%2fFdPGp8VHoUYFHZJFyp84kbZN1Peyq14sfwrbz5t7sXEgoYFWlOO9YRW1jrMKS9w2epQwzVdYJn2a3CySVIVRzDXCRI5i2OJRmNCVdpMzQBsA7Ru2Q6nzj%2f2bWwK8ZHx574msK3M2Ry8%2fEirSnE65kz8uGNQOVmjzCkeiKEmfNIMuKR&emci=d1ec891f-2d9e-eb11-85aa-0050f237abef&emdi=d4ec891f-2d9e-eb11-85aa-0050f237abef&ceid=3069006**](https://secure.everyaction.com/51e3kjnW4kGaia8LVDZxzw2?contactdata=3vtPqExB7PBdXY0dOTOVtzFIPuJNH%2fV14SJ9qawf6%2boRmnMUWMaPOQdI%2fZzvkHTnP49BAMEWbu9Hu0pva%2fFdPGp8VHoUYFHZJFyp84kbZN1Peyq14sfwrbz5t7sXEgoYFWlOO9YRW1jrMKS9w2epQwzVdYJn2a3CySVIVRzDXCRI5i2OJRmNCVdpMzQBsA7Ru2Q6nzj%2f2bWwK8ZHx574msK3M2Ry8%2fEirSnE65kz8uGNQOVmjzCkeiKEmfNIMuKR&emci=d1ec891f-2d9e-eb11-85aa-0050f237abef&emdi=d4ec891f-2d9e-eb11-85aa-0050f237abef&ceid=3069006)

**More resources for “No First Use”:**

* [**ReThink’s 2018/2019 Message Research**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/15H9YDml8TNYf68MmsEQHebo_1DFkXuM2/view) on “No First Use” (NFU)
* Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation [**NFU Resources**](https://armscontrolcenter.org/issues/no-first-use/) - [**Factsheet**](https://armscontrolcenter.org/issues/no-first-use/the-united-states-should-not-start-a-nuclear-war/), [**FAQs**](https://armscontrolcenter.org/issues/no-first-use/no-first-use-frequently-asked-questions/) and [**Myths vs. Realities**](https://armscontrolcenter.org/issues/no-first-use/no-first-use-myths-vs-realities/)
* Cartwright/Blair NYT Op-Ed: [**End the First-Use Policy for Nuclear Weapons**](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/15/opinion/end-the-first-use-policy-for-nuclear-weapons.html)

**SUPPORT the “Back from the Brink” package of five smart changes to public policy to reduce the danger of nuclear war. (SEE THE BOX BELOW):**

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 **five smart 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 grassroots 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).

In the pages above I have explained legislation for various parts of the “Back from the Brink” campaign that the 2021 Congress is considering. Also see some additional legislation at this link: [**https://preventnuclearwar.org/legislation/**](https://preventnuclearwar.org/legislation/)

**OPPOSE the U.S.’s militarization of space. It is wasteful, reckless and dangerous in many ways, but many 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 printed publication and their e-mail alerts. 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/)

NATO has allowed the U.S. to “weaponize” space for a new nuclear arms race. Congress approved Trump’s new branch of the U.S. military – the “Space Command.” See this: [**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)

**URGE CONGRESS TO TAKE MORE ACTIONS:**

* **Ask your member of Congress to join the Cut Military Spending Caucus.** See information here: [**https://lee.house.gov/news/press-releases/lee-pocan-and-auchincloss-lead-50-members-urging-biden-to-cut-defense-budget**](https://lee.house.gov/news/press-releases/lee-pocan-and-auchincloss-lead-50-members-urging-biden-to-cut-defense-budget)
* **H. Res. 54 says the House of Representatives wants the U.S. to lead the world in preventing further nuclear proliferation – and also reduce and eventually eliminate all nuclear weapons.** See this:[**https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-resolution/54/titles**](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-resolution/54/titles)and[**https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-resolution/54/titles?r=5&s=1**](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-resolution/54/titles?r=5&s=1)
* **H.R. 612 is the “Downwinders Parity Act of 2021.** See this:[**https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/612/text**](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/612/text)
* **Radiation Exposure Compensation Act:** Look for legislation to be introduced to improve this existing law.
* **Tell Congress: Atomic Veterans Deserve Healthcare Parity:** From 1946 to 1958, the United States tested 67 nuclear weapons in the Marshall Islands. In the late 1970s, over 5,500 servicemembers were sent to the Marshall Islands in an attempt to clean up the deadly radioactive dirt and debris left behind by those tests. The veterans who are alive today report that they had almost no protective gear, and that radiation monitoring efforts and other safety precautions frequently failed. Today, many of these veterans report cancers and other illnesses that they attribute to their radiation exposure in the Marshall Islands. The Department of Veterans affairs has a compensation and health care program for radiation-exposed veterans. But despite their exposures and health issues, veterans involved in the Marshall Islands cleanup effort have so far been denied benefits through this program. This bill would correct the oversight and make these veterans eligible for benefits by defining them as “radiation-exposed veterans” for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Encourage your members of Congress to support [**H.R. 1585**](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1585?s=1&r=15) and [**S. 565**](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/565).

**A great many excellent sources 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. We meet 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**
* Sign up to take the FREE ONLINE course “Nuclear Weapons Nowadays: What You Can Know and Do.” Four well informed members of the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons developed the course and present it several times every year ONLINE so people everywhere can take it. Information: Joanne Dufour (206) 550-1841 **jduf234@gmail.com** or Glen Anderson (360) 491-9093 **glenanderson@integra.net** and [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/sign-up-now-for-free-informative-fascinating-4-session-course-on-nuclear-weapons**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/sign-up-now-for-free-informative-fascinating-4-session-course-on-nuclear-weapons)
* Connect with our active, savvy 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 ([**www.armscontrol.org**](http://www.armscontrol.org)) 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**](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)