

Sample Back from the Brink (BftB) Municipal/State Legislative Resolution (revised October 2023)

Whereas nine nations collectively have approximately 12,500¹ nuclear weapons in their arsenals, most of which are far more destructive than those that killed hundreds of thousands of people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945²;

Whereas the detonation of even a small number of these weapons could have catastrophic human and environmental consequences that could threaten human civilization itself³ and affect everyone on the planet;

Whereas the United States maintains several hundred nuclear missiles in underground silos on hair-trigger alert, capable of being launched within minutes after a presidential order, which greatly increases the risk of an accidental, mistaken or unauthorized launch⁴;

Whereas the United States continues to reserve the right to use nuclear weapons first, which reduces the threshold for nuclear use and makes a nuclear war more likely⁵;

Whereas the U.S. president has the sole and unchecked authority to order the use of nuclear weapons⁶;

Whereas the climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and numerous human security and social justice concerns highlight the need for greater investment in our communities;

Whereas the full cost of U.S. nuclear weapons in 2023 alone, including for weapons development, testing and maintenance, environmental clean-up, missile defense and non-proliferation initiatives will be an estimated \$90 billion.⁷

Whereas the United States plans to spend an estimated \$756 billion between 2021 and 2030⁸ and \$1.7 trillion by 2046⁹ to replace its entire nuclear arsenal and the bombers, missiles and submarines that deliver them with more capable, more usable versions;

Whereas U.S. taxpayers spend roughly \$10.3 million every hour of every day to maintain the U.S. nuclear arsenal and its associated costs¹⁰;

Whereas a grassroots coalition called “Back from the Brink: Bringing Communities Together to Abolish Nuclear Weapons” has been endorsed by over 465 health, environmental, academic, peace, faith, and justice organizations and over 80 U.S. municipalities, counties and states have adopted resolutions supporting Back from the Brink’s policy solutions, including Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Salt Lake City, Tucson and Washington, D.C.¹¹;

Whereas the United States, as well as Britain, China, France and Russia, are obligated under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to take concrete steps toward eliminating their nuclear arsenals¹²;

Whereas in July 2017, 122 nations approved the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) which entered into force on January 22, 2021, making it illegal under international law to develop, test, produce, manufacture, or otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; As of September 30, 2023, 93 countries have signed the TPNW and 69 countries have ratified it¹³.

Therefore, (name of city or town) calls on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals;
- renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- ending the sole, unchecked authority of any president to launch a nuclear attack;
- taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert; and
- canceling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons.

And be it further resolved that (name of city or town) calls on the United States to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

OPTIONAL: And be it further resolved that (name of town/city/county/state) calls on (name of U.S. House Representative) to cosponsor [H. Res. 77](#), a Congressional “Back from the Brink” resolution introduced in January, 2023 that calls on the U.S. to embrace the goals and provisions of the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and adopt common sense policies to help prevent nuclear war.

And be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution will be sent to (names of U.S. Representatives and Senators) and President Joseph R. Biden.

¹ <https://fas.org/initiative/status-world-nuclear-forces/>

² <https://thebulletin.org/2020/08/counting-the-dead-at-hiroshima-and-nagasaki/>

³ <https://www.ippnw.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ENGLISH-Nuclear-Famine-Report-Final-bleed-marks.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions-about-hair-trigger-alert>

⁵ <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/no-first-use-explained>

⁶ <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/three-heads-are-better-one>

⁷ <https://www.psr-la.org/nuclear-costs>

⁸ <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/59054>

⁹ <https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2017-12/news/cbo-nuclear-arsenal-cost-12-trillion>

¹⁰ <https://www.psr-la.org/nuclear-costs>

¹¹ <https://preventnuclearwar.org/whos-on-board/>

¹² <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/nptfact>

¹³ https://www.icanw.org/signature_and_ratification_status