

Why This Moment Demands Action

Reasons to Cosponsor H. Res. 317/S. Res. 323

1. Beyond Deterrence

The continued reliance on nuclear deterrence places global security on unstable ground. True security must be built through diplomacy, arms control, and a decisive commitment to disarmament.

2. Escalating Nuclear Tensions

From Russia's nuclear posturing in Ukraine to Israel's recent strikes on Iranian nuclear sites, and renewed friction between India and Pakistan, the risk of miscalculation is dangerously high.

3. Sentinel Delays & Minuteman Extension

The Air Force now confirms the feasibility of extending Minuteman III ICBMs through 2050, raising urgent questions about the necessity and cost of the \$141 billion Sentinel program.

- The program has triggered a Nunn-McCurdy breach, requiring congressional review.
- The feasibility of extending Minuteman III undermines the urgency narrative behind Sentinel.

4. Democracy Under Strain

Project 2025 outlines a sweeping plan to consolidate executive power across national security, emergency response, and defense policy.

- While it does not explicitly propose changes to nuclear launch protocol, its framework would reduce institutional checks and expand unilateral presidential control.
- Combined with proposals to resume nuclear testing and dismantle arms control agreements, this agenda threatens to erode democratic oversight of the most consequential decisions a president can make.

5. Economic Justice at Stake

The U.S. is projected to spend nearly \$1 trillion on nuclear weapons over the next decade, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

- These taxpayer funds could be redirected toward healthcare, housing, education, and climate resilience.
- Communities harmed by nuclear testing and production still lack full access to compensation, medical care, and environmental remediation.

6. Cultural Wake-Up Call

A wave of major films is bringing nuclear risk into the public spotlight:

- Kathryn Bigelow's *A House of Dynamite* dramatizes a fictional nuclear strike on Chicago and the White House's response.
- James Cameron's *Ghosts of Hiroshima* depicts the lived aftermath of the atomic bombings in Japan.
- Denis Villeneuve's *Nuclear War: A Scenario* adapts Annie Jacobsen's nonfiction bestseller exploring what a modern nuclear war could look like.

These projects reflect growing public anxiety—H.Res.317 offers a real-world path to prevent such scenarios.

7. Moral Leadership from Faith Communities

Across traditions, faith leaders are calling for bold action to prevent nuclear catastrophe. In his message marking 80 years since the Trinity test and the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Pope Leo XIV—the first American pope, born and raised in Chicago—declared:

“Nuclear arms offend our shared humanity and betray the dignity of creation.”
His call for “a peace that is unarmed and disarming” echoes the urgency voiced by hibakusha and interfaith coalitions worldwide.

8. This Resolution Is A Grassroots Organizing Tool

This resolution mobilizes activists, faith leaders, scientists, veterans, and impacted communities—ensuring sustained momentum for legislative action and public engagement.

9. Grassroots Momentum

- The Back from the Brink campaign now includes 500+ endorsing organizations, spanning public health, faith, environmental, and peace sectors.
- 78 municipalities and counties, 8 state legislative bodies, and 487 elected officials have formally endorsed the campaign's five policy solutions.
- 450+ local and state elected officials have signed organized letters to Congress, calling for urgent action on nuclear weapons policy.
- 50+ Members of Congress have voiced support for the resolution's goals through cosponsorship.
- The effort is bicameral, with the introduction of S.Res.323 in the Senate.
- The campaign is anchored by over 25 active regional hubs, organizing local events, vigils, and legislative outreach.
- Students for Nuclear Disarmament (SND), an affiliated youth network, now has chapters in more than 15 academic institutions—mobilizing Gen Z around nuclear abolition and policy reform.

10. Historical Reckoning

Eight decades after the first nuclear detonation and the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Congress faces a moral and strategic imperative to confront the legacy of nuclear weapons—not with symbolic gestures, but with concrete action to prevent future catastrophe.