

Nuclear Enhancements Will Make us Less Safe

The upgrading of nuclear warheads increases the risk of nuclear war, accidental or intentional. Warhead upgrades will produce more accurate, and more lethal weapons. Such warhead upgrades are perceived as incredibly provocative by other nuclear powers and therefore represent an escalation of nuclear deterrence policy. Thus the nuclear weapons upgrade policy is destabilizing and dangerous to Americans and all the world's peoples.

How Can We Stop It?

The funds for nuclear weapons programs are voted by Appropriation Committees of the House of Representatives and of the Senate. Cutting the House appropriations are the best path to slowing weapons development and deployment, and essential to free up funds for other essential human needs such as housing, healthcare, education and environmental protection.

By joining forces with movements for social and economic justice, we have the possibility of building strong enough movements in US House districts to influence budget votes.

One initial step in this effort is to educate the most receptive Congresspersons, members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and press them to incorporate No to the Trillion Dollar Escalation into the

People's Budget prepared annually by the Progressive Caucus.

Also important is the SANE Act (S. 831 and H.R. 1534), sponsored by Senator Ed Markey [D-MA] and congressman Earl Blumenauer [D-OR], which would prohibit funds for the development of the new Long Range Penetrating Bomber and F-35 nuclear mission, restrict the cost of nuclear warhead modernization, and terminate the SSNB(X) program and many of the new production facilities. Collectively, these cuts would reduce the cost of nuclear modernization by \$100 billion throughout the next decade.

The Don't Bank on the Bomb campaign calls on city pension funds, universities, and responsible investors to divest from corporations involved in the production and development of nuclear weapons.

The People's Call to President Obama is a petition drive calling on the president to take actions he can take without Congress during his last year in office.

We need to build campaigns like Subways not Submarines, Books not Bombs, and Housing not H-Bombs, to reach ordinary people around their day to day concerns. Such campaigns, modeled on the current, powerful No to Trident campaign in the UK, call for meeting people's and communities' needs by shifting funds from unnecessary weapons development.

There is much to do, and it will take millions of us to stop the triad upgrade. Let's start today! Contact Massachusetts Peace Action today to get involved!



Build Homes Not Bombs

... by saying no to the \$1 Trillion Dollar Nuclear Weapon Upgrades

Invest in Minds not Missiles

...by saying no to a New Nuclear Arms Race

Build Subways not Submarines

...by saying no to New Nuclear Missile Submarines

Fund Healthcare Not Warfare

... by saying no to the Trillion Taxpayer's Dollars Nuclear Weapons Escalation



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The World's Most Dangerous Weapons

Nuclear weapons have the potential to wreak unprecedented destruction upon the peoples of world. The hydrogen bombs currently deployed in the U.S. arsenal have 50 times the destructive capacity of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Even a limited nuclear war with these weapons would produce irreparable damage, killing tens of millions of civilians directly and many more indirectly due to the fallout and nuclear winter that would follow. Despite these dangers, the United States maintains over 1,900 operational nuclear warheads on hair trigger alert, in addition to 4,700 in stockpiles.

The Fundamental Immorality of Nuclear Weapons

All nuclear weapons are deeply and fundamentally immoral, their detonation killing every living creature indiscriminately in the blast zones. Nuclear weapons should have been outlawed from human society decades ago, following the Geneva Convention and international bans on Chemical and Biological Weapons. As

noted by Pope Francis in his 2015 address to the United Nations “...*There is urgent need to work for a world free of nuclear weapons, in full application of the non-proliferation Treaty, in letter and spirit, with the goal of a complete prohibition of these weapons*”.



The Administration's Plan to Upgrade the Nuclear Arsenal

Rather than reduce existing stockpiles, the Obama administration has embarked upon an incredibly costly plan to “modernize” the nuclear weapons arsenal. The plan includes replacements and upgrades to the three nuclear weapons delivery systems, known as the “triad” (strategic bombers, ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs), and intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs)). Viewed from outside the U.S. these programs represent a clear escalation of the nuclear weapons threat.

Human and Taxpayer Cost of the Nuclear Weapons Upgrade

The total cost of the U.S. nuclear weapons escalation program is estimated at over \$1 trillion taxpayer dollars over the span of three decades -- a thousand billion dollars.

These programs are financed from the federal budget, predominantly our income tax dollars. Funding these programs will be done by cutting almost all major programs that fund human needs including housing, public transit, food stamps, biomedical research, education, environmental protection and energy sustainability.

The high costs of these programs insure high profits to the corporations receiving the contracts for the maintenance, upgrading and production of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems. These corporations are the leading lobbyists in the country promoting this dangerous, provocative and amoral nuclear weapons escalation.

Some of the most costly aspects of the program include 12 new SSNB(X) submarines at \$347 billion, the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) at \$62 billion, the Long Range Strike Bomber (LRS-B) at \$42 billion, and the Long Range Standoff Weapon (LRSO) at \$25 billion.