

SENATE/HOUSE DOCKET, NO. FILED ON:

SENATE/HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolve:

Resolutions and a resolve relative to the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

SENATE/HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

Resolutions ~~and a resolve~~ relative to the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SECTION 1.

WHEREAS, the continued existence of nearly 14,000 nuclear weapons worldwide poses a grave and existential threat to the citizens of the Commonwealth;

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Commonwealth have expressed their deep concern about this continuing threat over many decades and continue to do so;

WHEREAS, this concern has been expressed through numerous Town Meetings and City Council resolutions throughout the Commonwealth;

WHEREAS, this concern has also been expressed through numerous resolutions and bills brought before this General Court, including at least five such bills introduced in the last legislative session on this topic;

WHEREAS, in general it is the federal government and not the state which has jurisdiction over matters relating to nuclear weapons, this does not mean there is no role for the Commonwealth to play in this regard;

WHEREAS, in fact, it has been shown that the policies and actions of states can lead the way to important and necessary changes at the federal level and even internationally;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts played a leading role in ending the nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union in the 1980s, by adopting a Nuclear Freeze resolution and encouraging other states to follow our example;

WHEREAS, 40 years later it is not a “freeze” of nuclear weapons that is needed to save the Commonwealth, and the world, from the unthinkable catastrophe of a nuclear war or a nuclear accident, but the complete elimination of these weapons, in line with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which enters into force as international law on January 22, 2021;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts congratulates the 51 countries that have signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and commends the legislatures of California and Oregon, the Maine State Senate, the New Jersey Assembly, and the 15 cities and towns in Massachusetts which have taken action to protect their citizens from the existential threat of nuclear war by embracing this Treaty and endorsing the national Back from the Brink platform, which calls on our federal leaders to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to take immediate steps to prevent nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first, ending the President’s sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack, taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, canceling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons, and actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the General Court joins these state legislative bodies and Massachusetts municipalities and endorses the national Back from the Brink platform, and be it further

RESOLVED, that it shall henceforth be the policy of the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to pursue whatever measures may be found necessary and appropriate to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth from the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons and to contribute in whatever ways it can, as a Commonwealth, towards the total elimination of these weapons from all countries, in line with the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and be it further

~~RESOLVED, that the General Court endorses the national Back from the Brink platform which calls on our federal leaders to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to take immediate steps to prevent nuclear war by renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first, ending the President's sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack, taking U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert, canceling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons, and actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals; and be it further~~

RESOLVED. That the clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from the Commonwealth in the Congress of the United States, and to the Governor of the Commonwealth.

.ate emergency and to meet other pressing social needs.