

Resolution relative to the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

S.1487 (Sen. Comerford)

- This act would officially congratulate the UN member states that have signed onto the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and commend the legislatures of California and Oregon, the Maine State Senate, the New Jersey Assembly, and the 20 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 and it would have the General Court join them endorsing the Back from the Brink Platform.
- The Back from the Brink platform seeks fundamental change in US nuclear policy in support of President Obama's 2009 commitment to seeking the security of a world free of nuclear weapons. It 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 actively pursuing a verifiable, enforceable, timebound agreement with all eight of the other nuclear-armed states to eliminate all nuclear weapons worldwide. It also calls on the US to take several intermediate steps that will lessen the danger of nuclear war while these negotiations proceed and add momentum to the process: 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
- Back from the Brink has been endorsed by more than 60 municipalities across the country including Boston, Springfield, Worcester, Washington DC, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Salt Lake City, Tucson, Los Angeles, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Milwaukee and San Francisco, and by more than 400 civic groups, professional and academic associations, faith groups, and racial and environmental justice groups (www.PreventNuclearWar.org)
- The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) includes a comprehensive set of prohibitions on participating in any nuclear weapon activities. State parties agree not to develop, test, produce, acquire, possess, stockpile, use or threaten to use nuclear weapons. The Treaty also prohibits the deployment of nuclear weapons on national territory and the provision of assistance to any State in the conduct of prohibited activities. It was adopted at the UN General Assembly on July 7, 2017 by a vote of 122 in favor, 1 against, and 1 abstention. As of January, 2023, 92 nations had signed the Treaty and 68 had ratified it. It entered into force January 22, 2021.

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